BOOM! STUDIOS

JAMES
TYNION IV

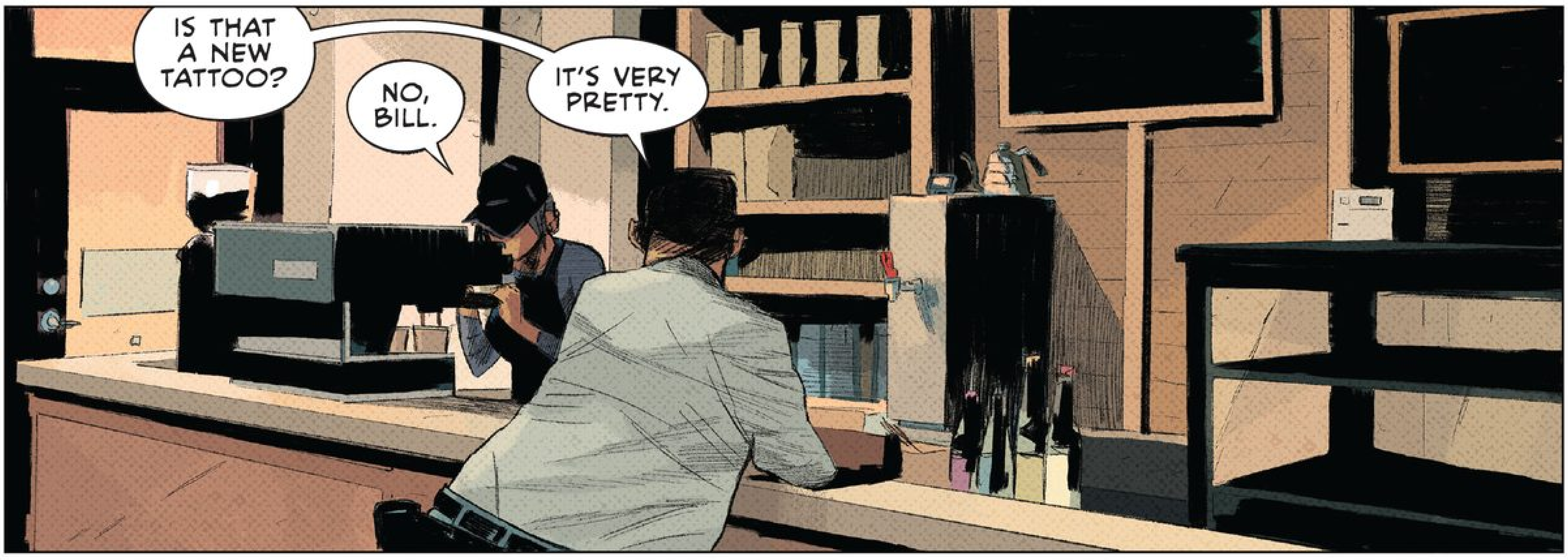
WERTHER
DELL'EDERA

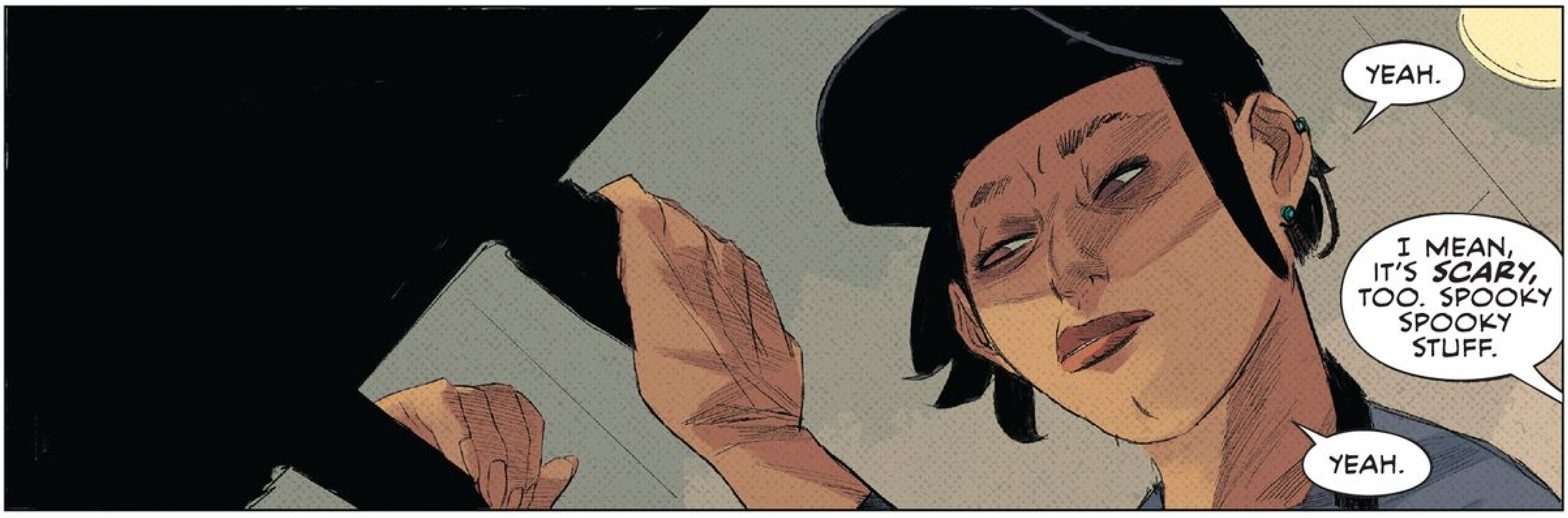
MIQUEL
MUERTO

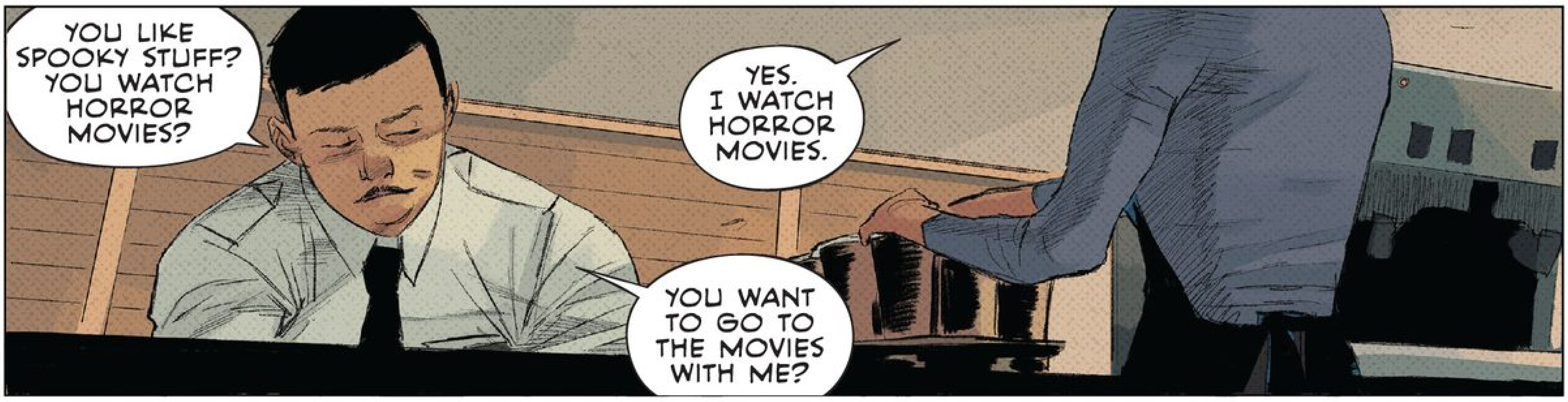
№ 29

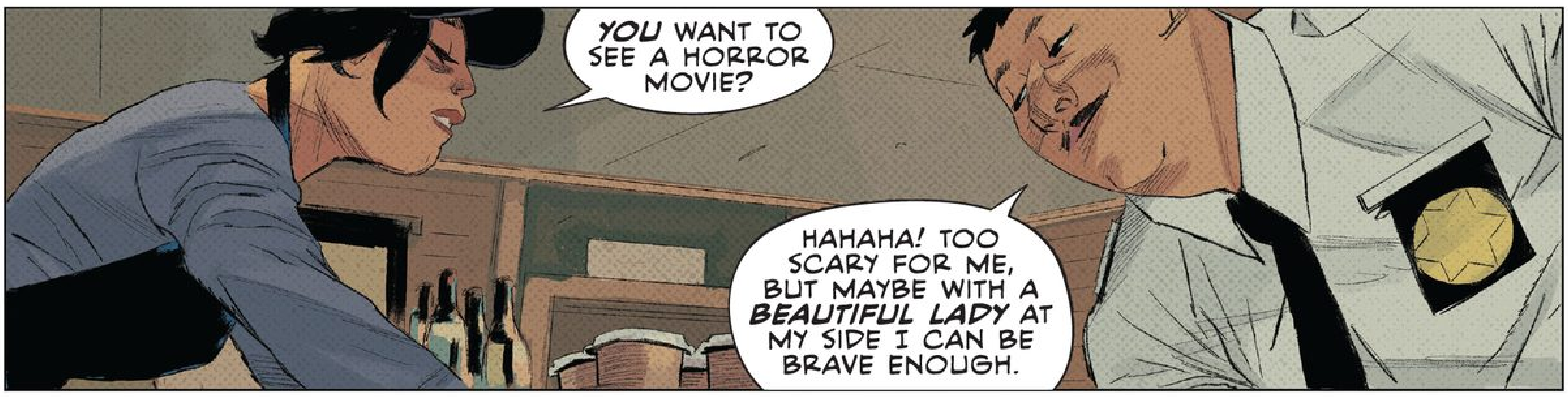
SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

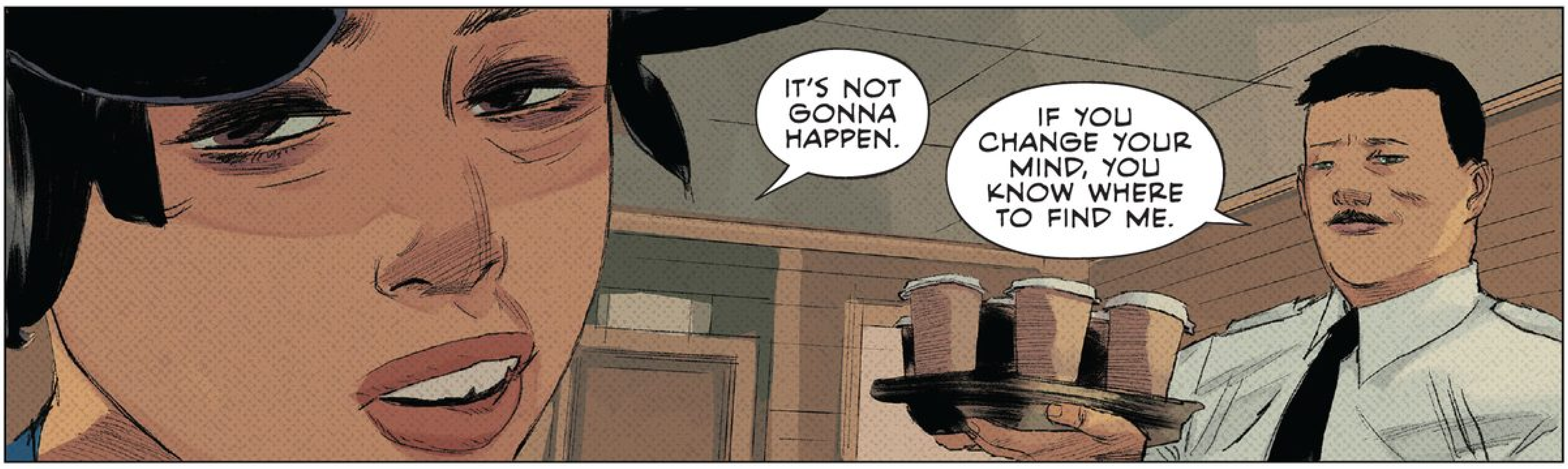
™

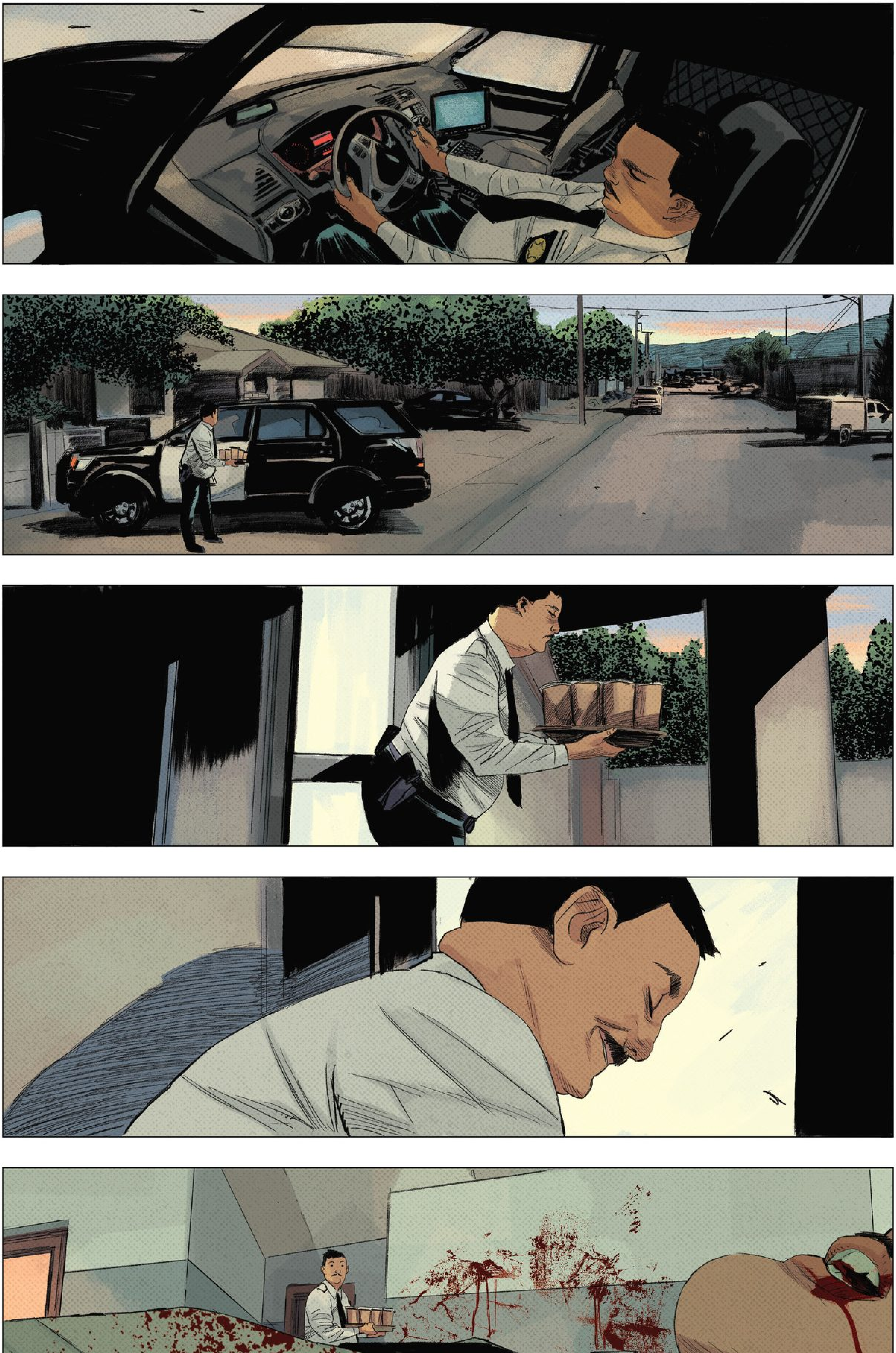

IS THAT A NEW TATTOO?
NO, BILL.
IT'S VERY PRETTY.

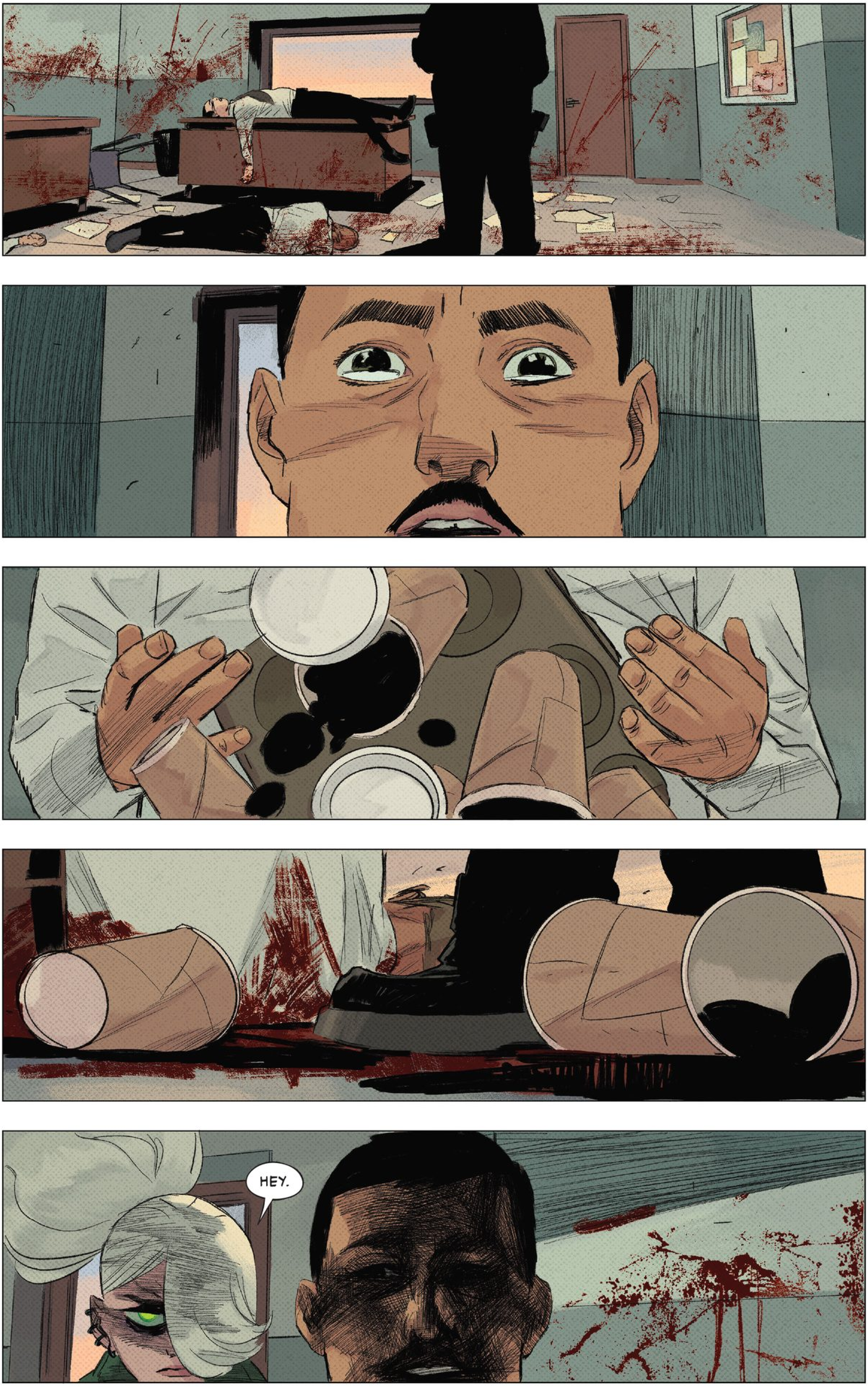

YEAH.
I MEAN, IT'S ***SCARY,*** TOO. SPOOKY SPOOKY STUFF.
YEAH.

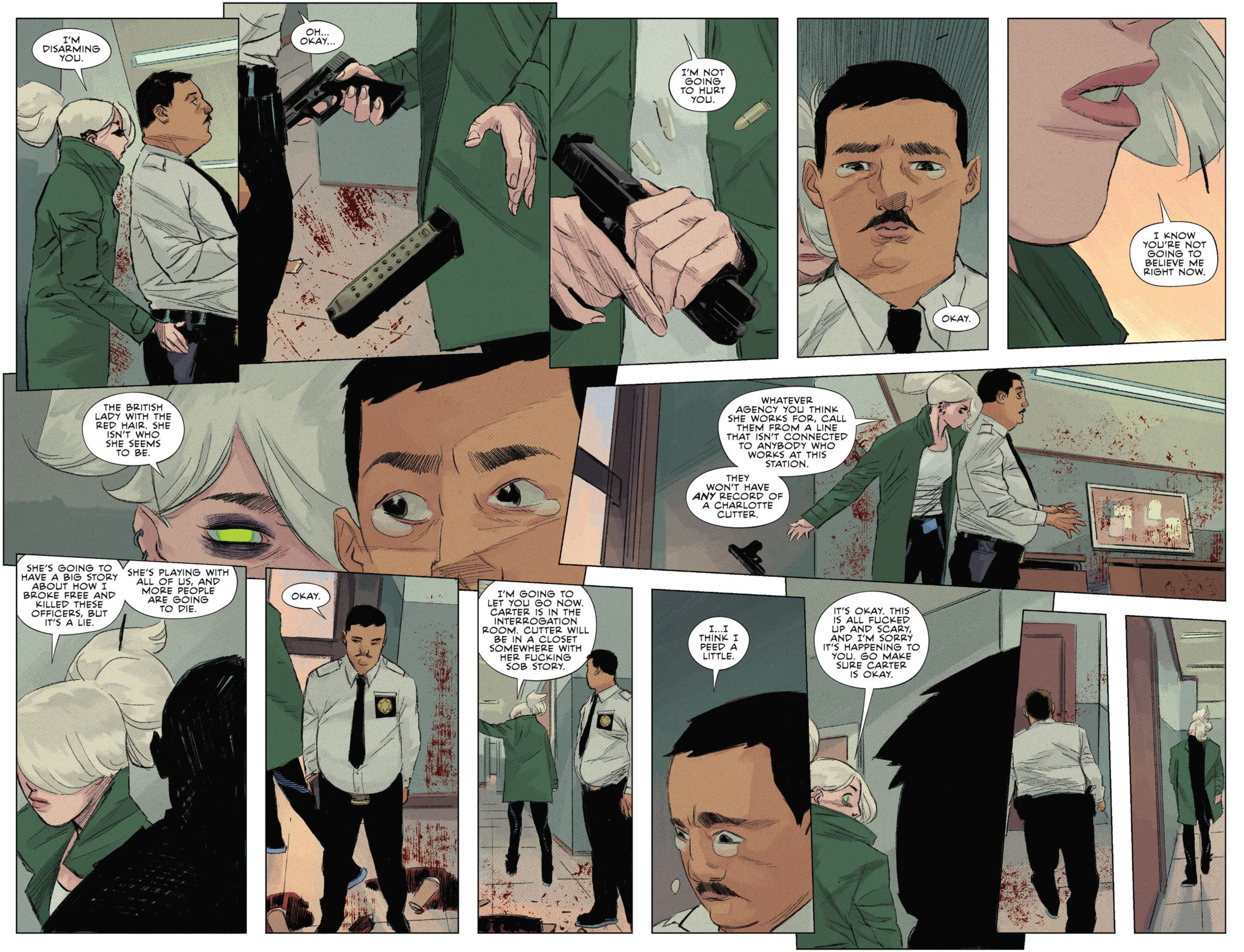

YOU LIKE SPOOKY STUFF? YOU WATCH HORROR MOVIES?
YES. I WATCH HORROR MOVIES.
YOU WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES WITH ME?

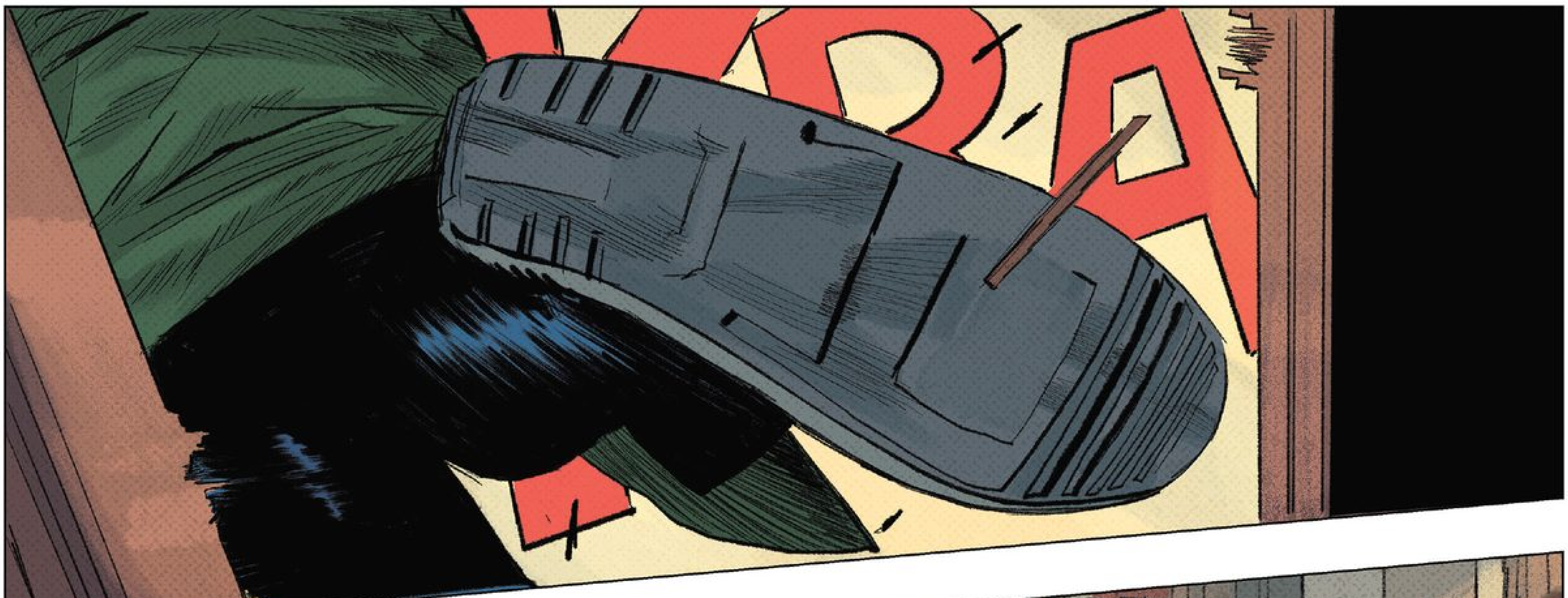

YOU WANT TO SEE A HORROR MOVIE?
HAHAHA! TOO SCARY FOR ME, BUT MAYBE WITH A ***BEAUTIFUL LADY*** AT MY SIDE I CAN BE BRAVE ENOUGH.

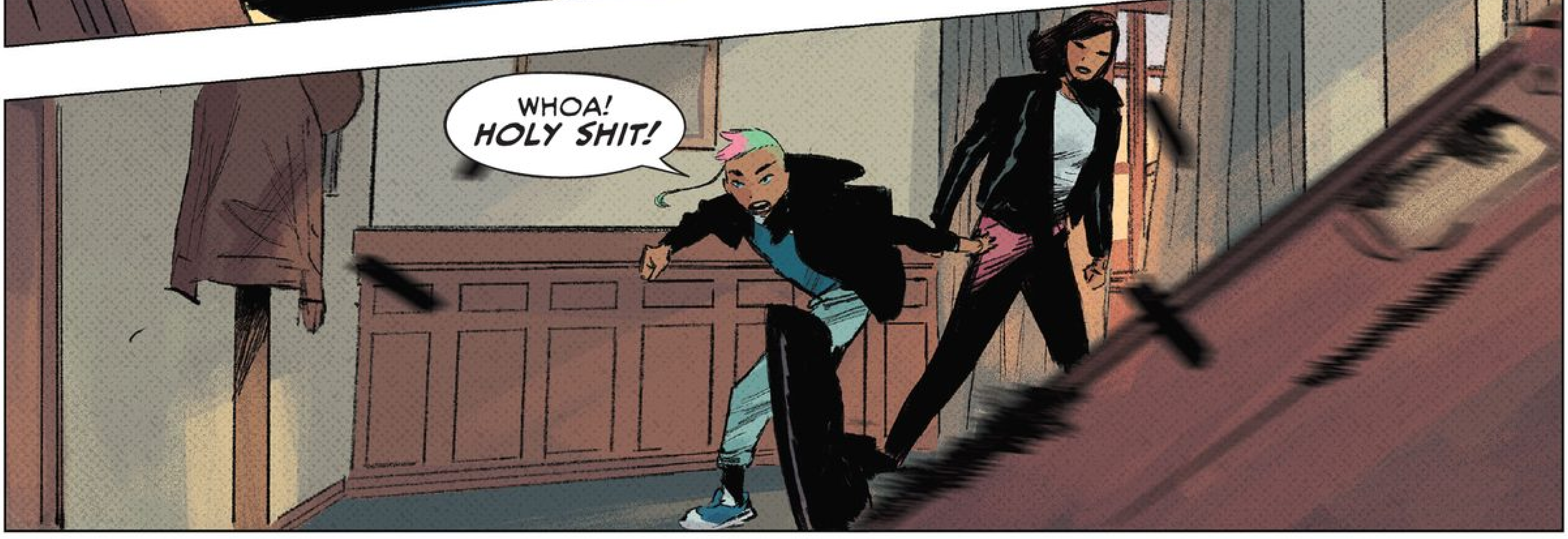

IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.

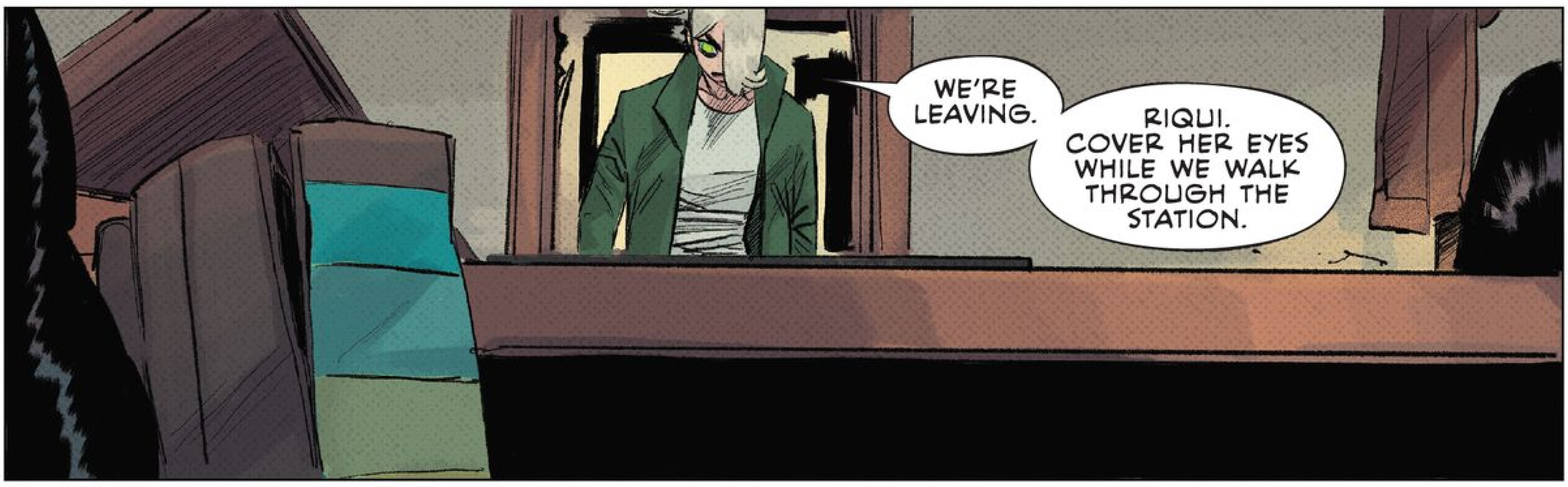


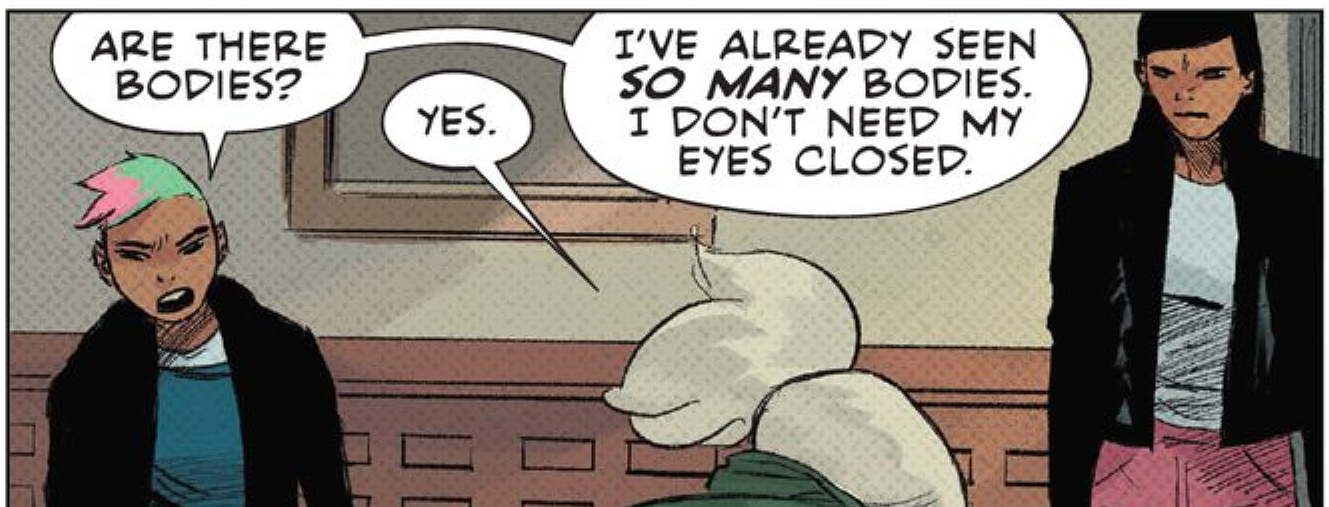

HEY.

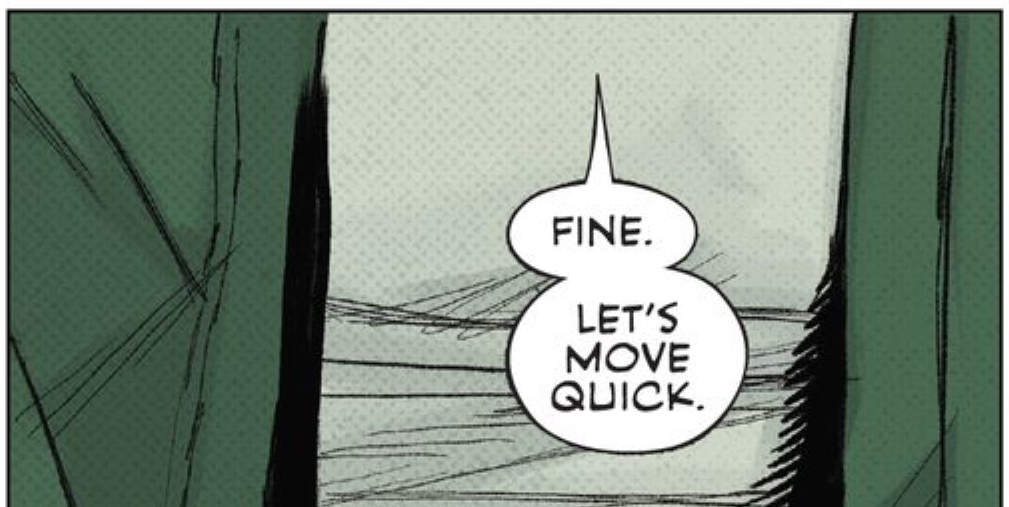

I'M DISARMING YOU.
OH... OKAY...
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
OKAY.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE ME RIGHT NOW.
THE BRITISH LADY WITH THE RED HAIR. SHE ISN'T WHO SHE SEEMS TO BE.
WHATEVER AGENCY YOU THINK SHE WORKS FOR, CALL THEM FROM A LINE THAT ISN'T CONNECTED TO ANYBODY WHO WORKS AT THIS STATION.
THEY WON'T HAVE ANY RECORD OF A CHARLOTTE CUTTER.
SHE'S GOING TO HAVE A BIG STORY ABOUT HOW I BROKE FREE AND KILLED THESE OFFICERS, BUT IT'S A LIE.
SHE'S PLAYING WITH ALL OF US, AND MORE PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE.
OKAY.
I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO NOW. CARTER IS IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM. CUTTER WILL BE IN A CLOSET SOMEWHERE WITH HER FUCKING SOB STORY.
I...I THINK I PEED A LITTLE.
IT'S OKAY. THIS IS ALL FUCKED UP AND SCARY, AND I'M SORRY IT'S HAPPENING TO YOU. GO MAKE SURE CARTER IS OKAY.

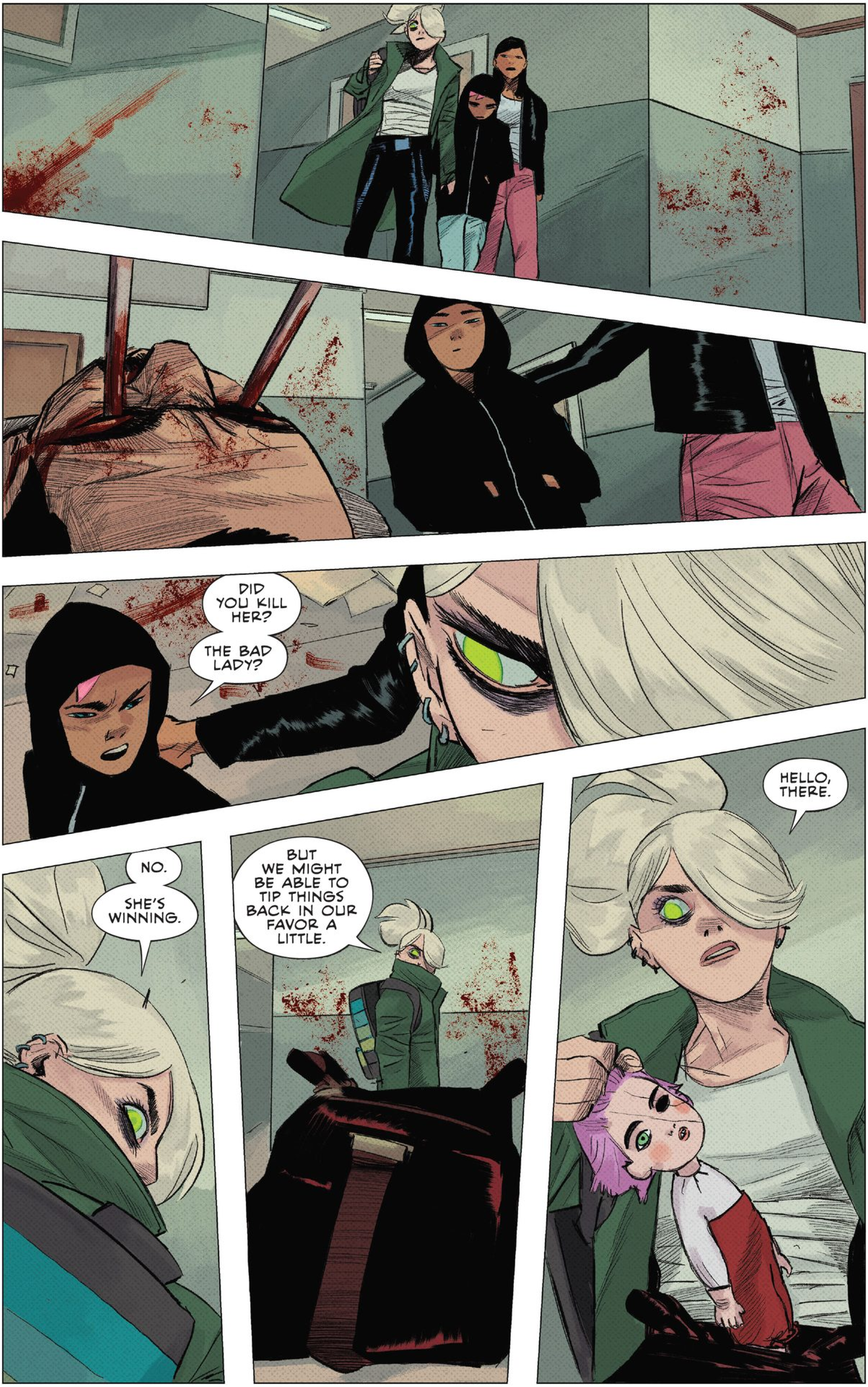



WHOA! *HOLY SHIT!*

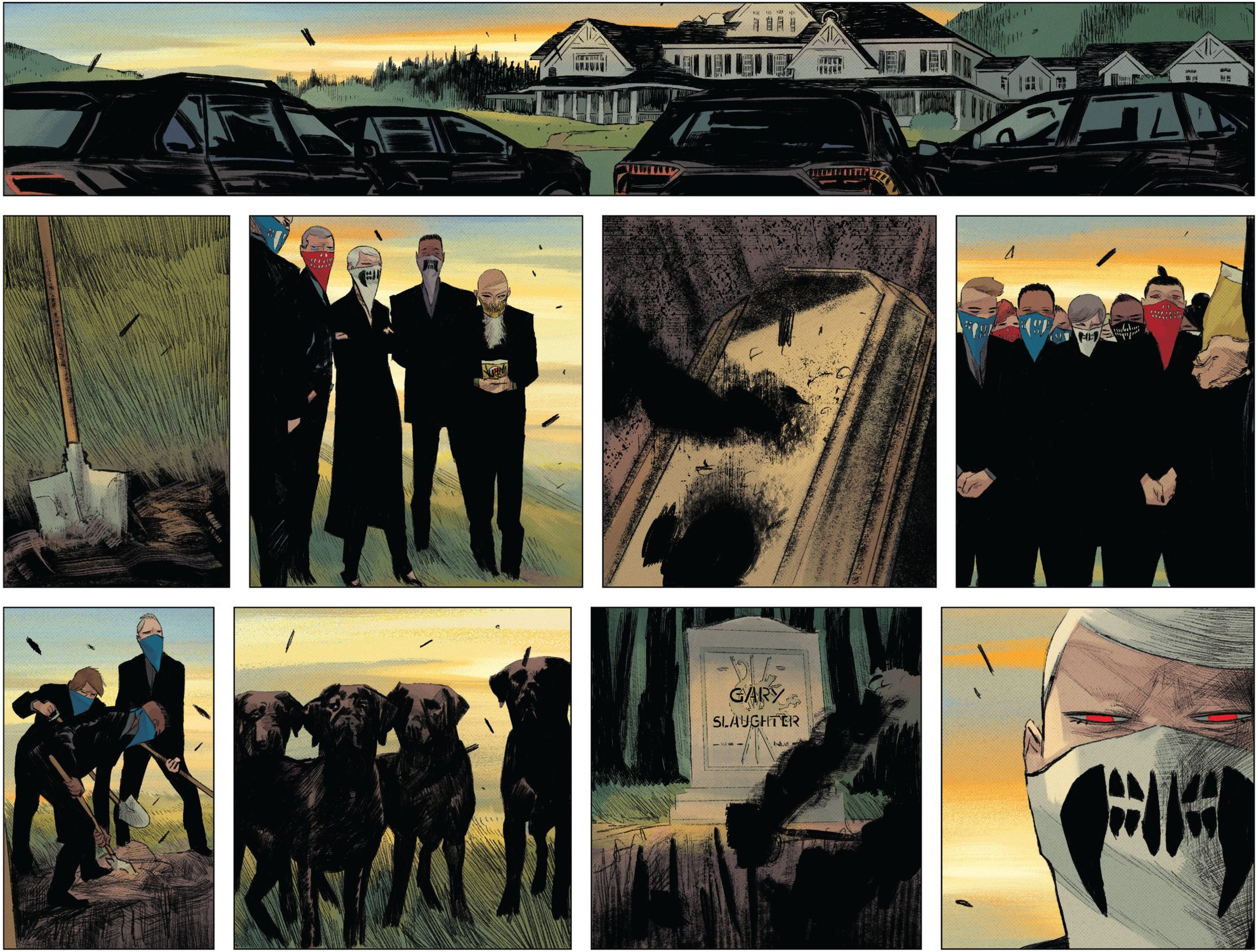

WE'RE LEAVING.
RIQUI. COVER HER EYES WHILE WE WALK THROUGH THE STATION.

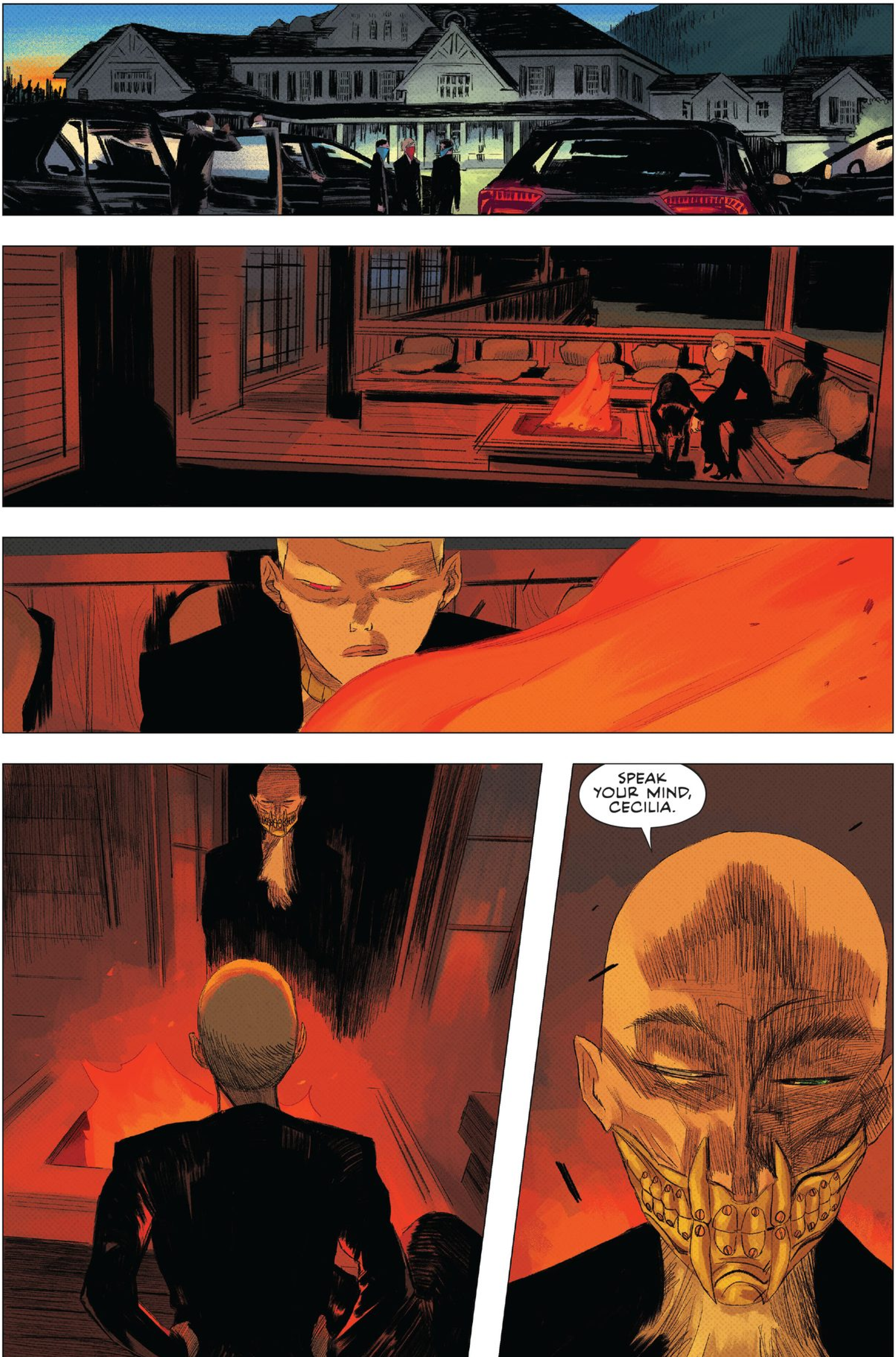

ARE THERE BODIES?
YES.
I'VE ALREADY SEEN *SO MANY* BODIES. I DON'T NEED MY EYES CLOSED.

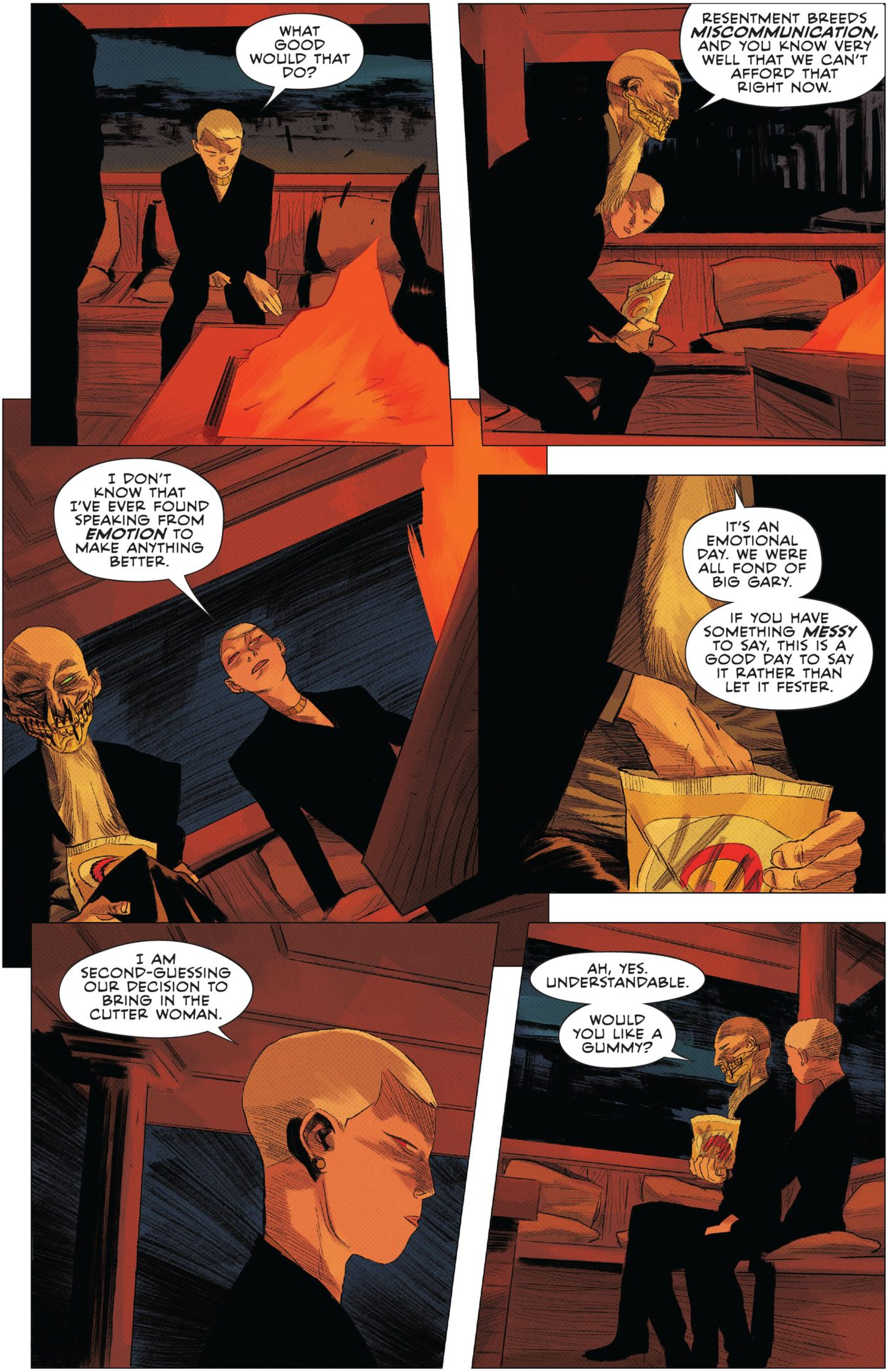

FINE.
LET'S MOVE QUICK.

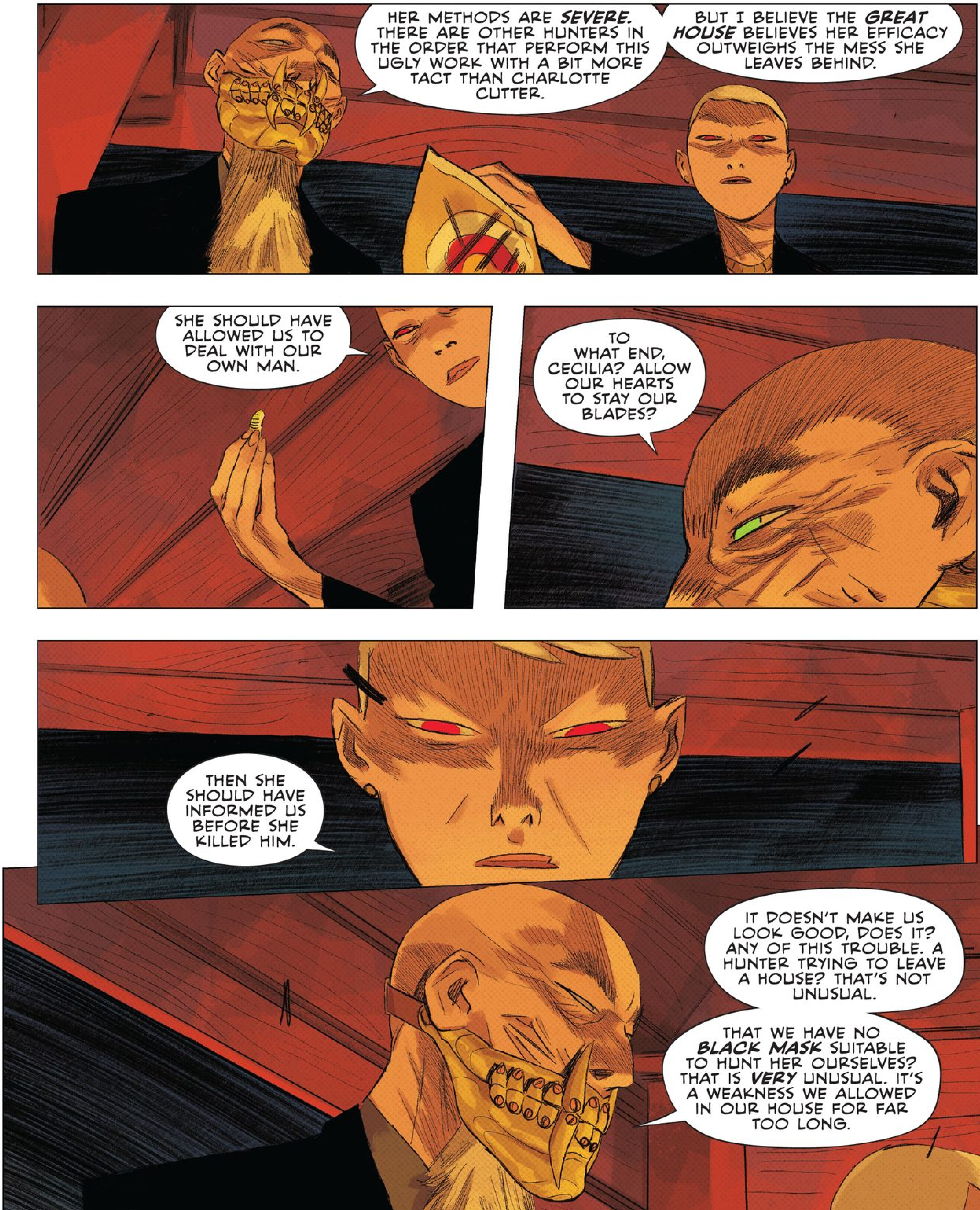

DID YOU KILL HER?
THE BAD LADY?
NO.
SHE'S WINNING.
BUT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO TIP THINGS BACK IN OUR FAVOR A LITTLE.
HELLO, THERE.

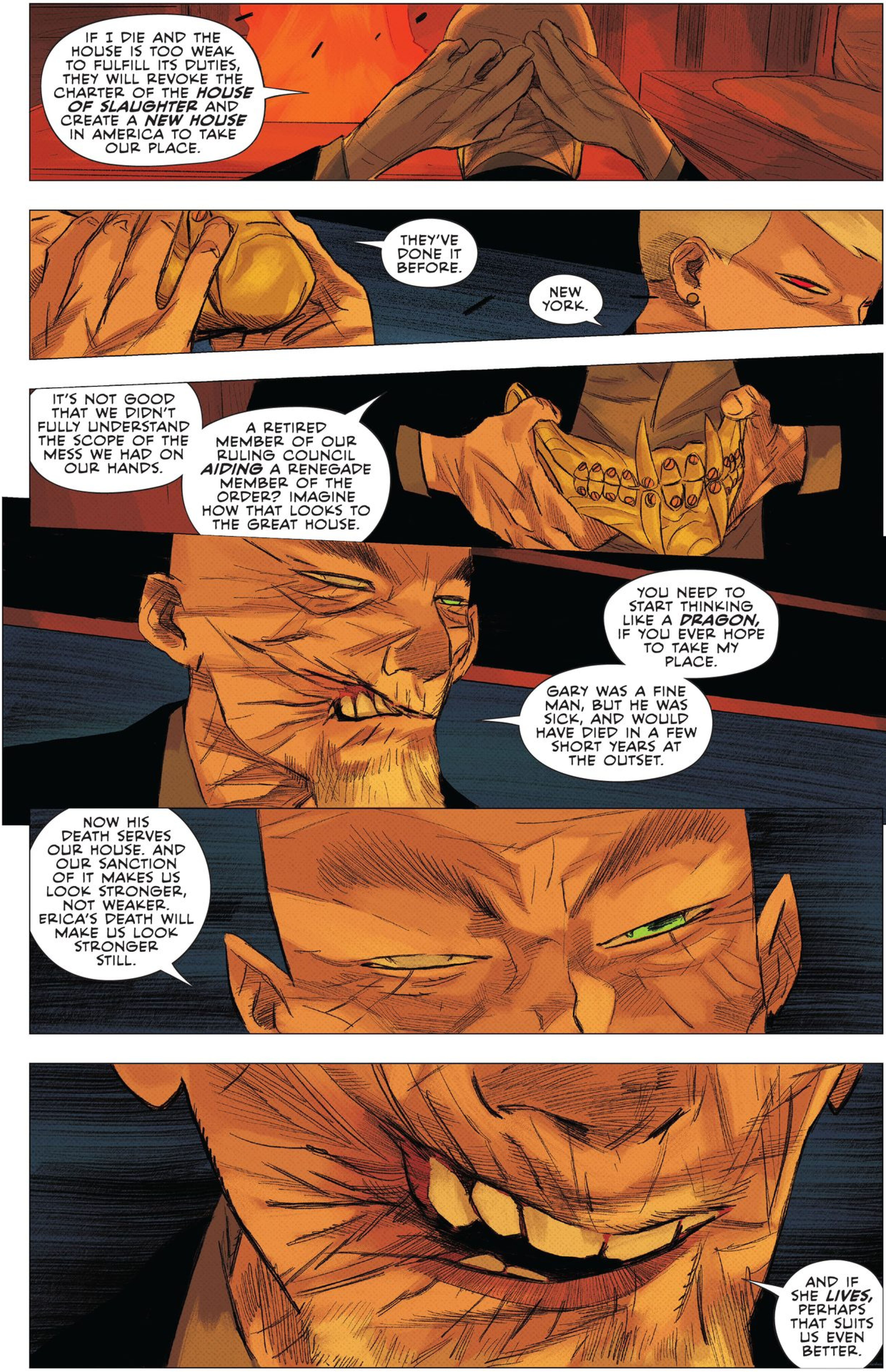
SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

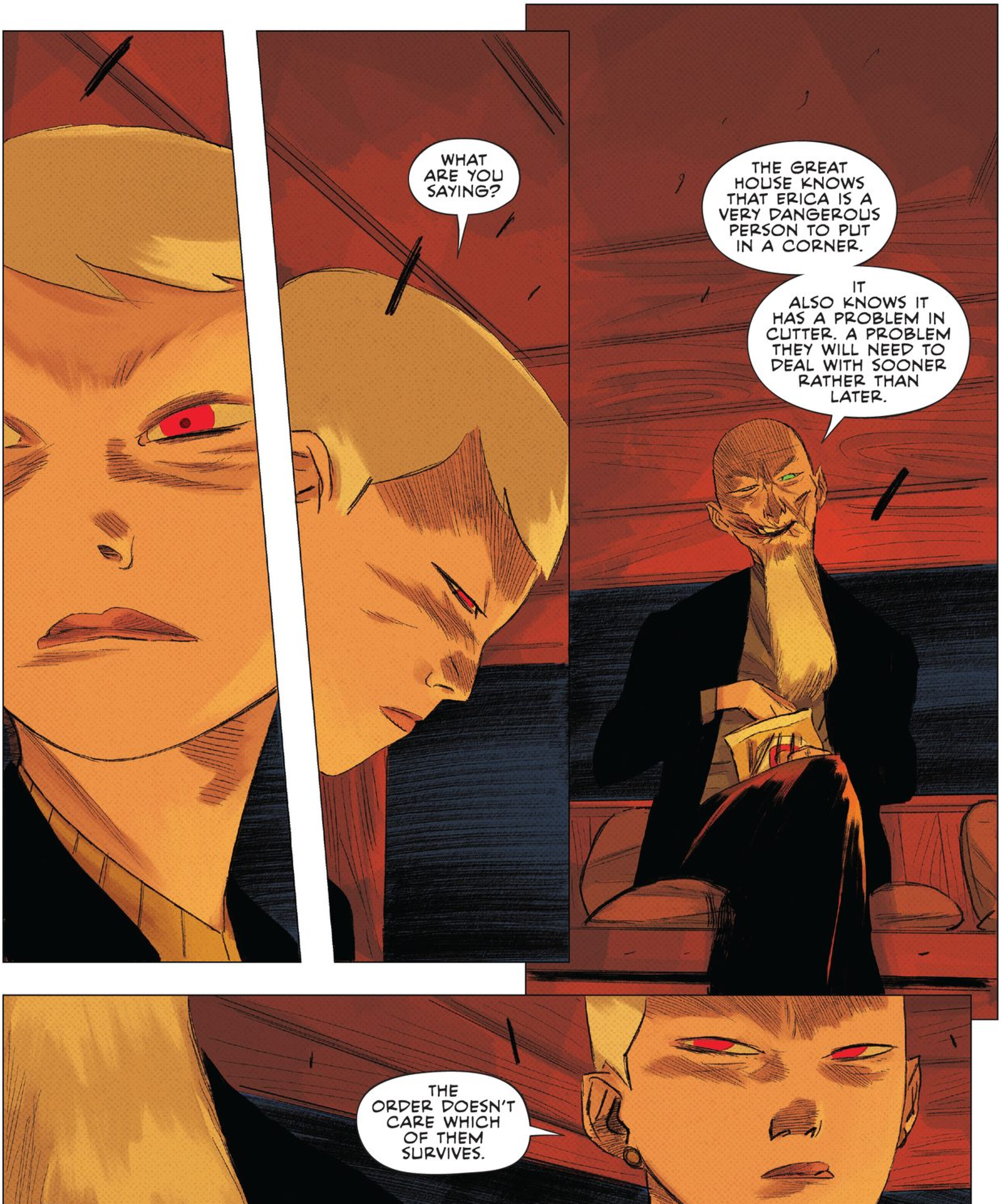

GARY
SLAUGHTER

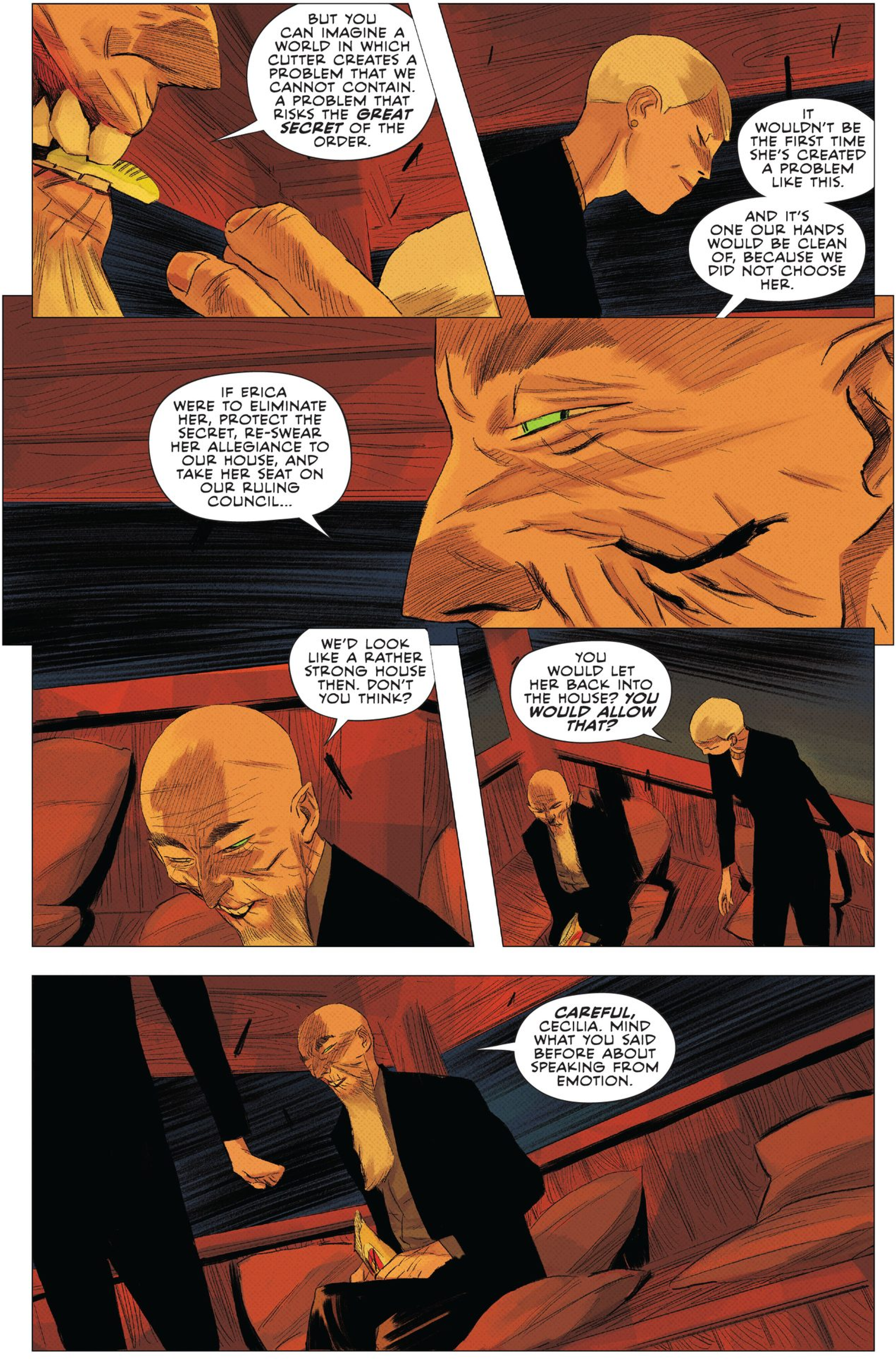

SPEAK YOUR MIND, CECILIA.

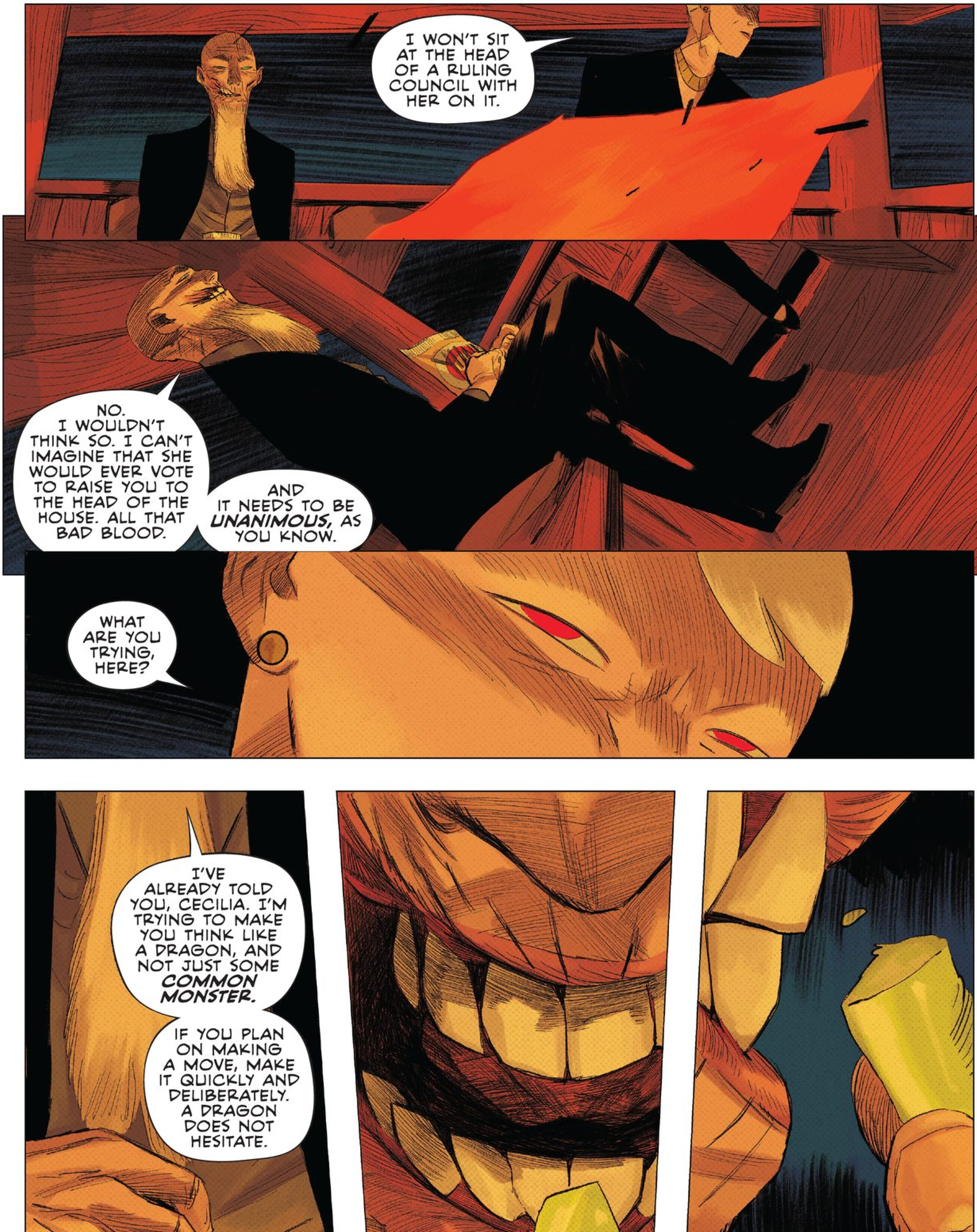

WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO?
RESENTMENT BREEDS **MISCOMMUNICATION,** AND YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T KNOW THAT I'VE EVER FOUND SPEAKING FROM **EMOTION** TO MAKE ANYTHING BETTER.
IT'S AN EMOTIONAL DAY. WE WERE ALL FOND OF BIG GARY.
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING **MESSY** TO SAY, THIS IS A GOOD DAY TO SAY IT RATHER THAN LET IT FESTER.
I AM SECOND-GUESSING OUR DECISION TO BRING IN THE CUTTER WOMAN.
AH, YES. UNDERSTANDABLE.
WOULD YOU LIKE A GUMMY?

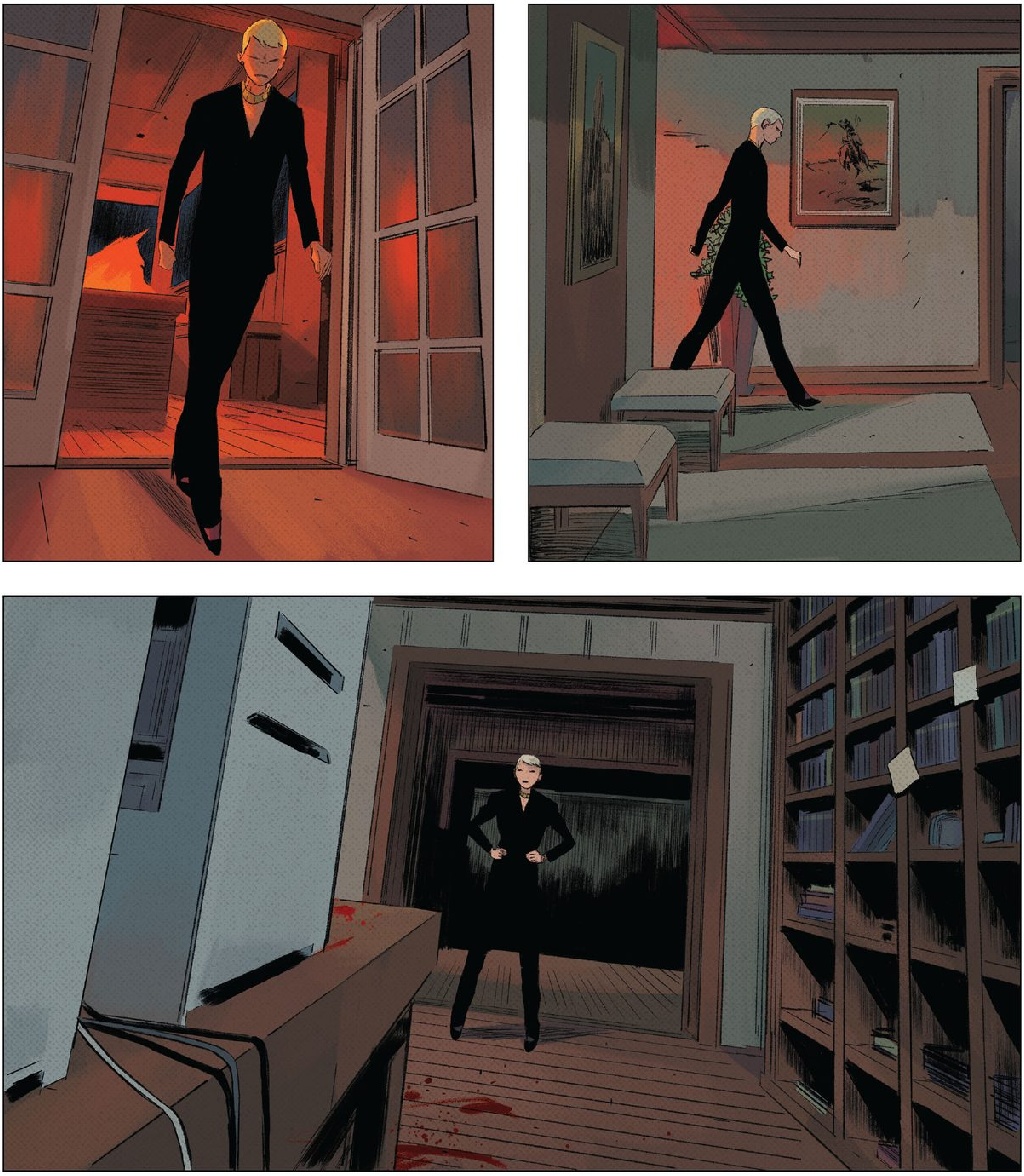

HER METHODS ARE ***SEVERE.*** THERE ARE OTHER HUNTERS IN THE ORDER THAT PERFORM THIS UGLY WORK WITH A BIT MORE TACT THAN CHARLOTTE CUTTER.
BUT I BELIEVE THE ***GREAT HOUSE*** BELIEVES HER EFFICACY OUTWEIGHS THE MESS SHE LEAVES BEHIND.
SHE SHOULD HAVE ALLOWED US TO DEAL WITH OUR OWN MAN.
TO WHAT END, CECILIA? ALLOW OUR HEARTS TO STAY OUR BLADES?
THEN SHE SHOULD HAVE INFORMED US BEFORE SHE KILLED HIM.
IT DOESN'T MAKE US LOOK GOOD, DOES IT? ANY OF THIS TROUBLE. A HUNTER TRYING TO LEAVE A HOUSE? THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL.
THAT WE HAVE NO ***BLACK MASK*** SUITABLE TO HUNT HER OURSELVES? THAT IS ***VERY*** UNUSUAL. IT'S A WEAKNESS WE ALLOWED IN OUR HOUSE FOR FAR TOO LONG.
I'VE ALREADY SET OUT TO FIX THAT...
TIME ISN'T ON OUR SIDE. DON'T FOOL YOURSELF. IT WILL BE A DECADE BEFORE WE DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ***BUTCHER SHOP.***

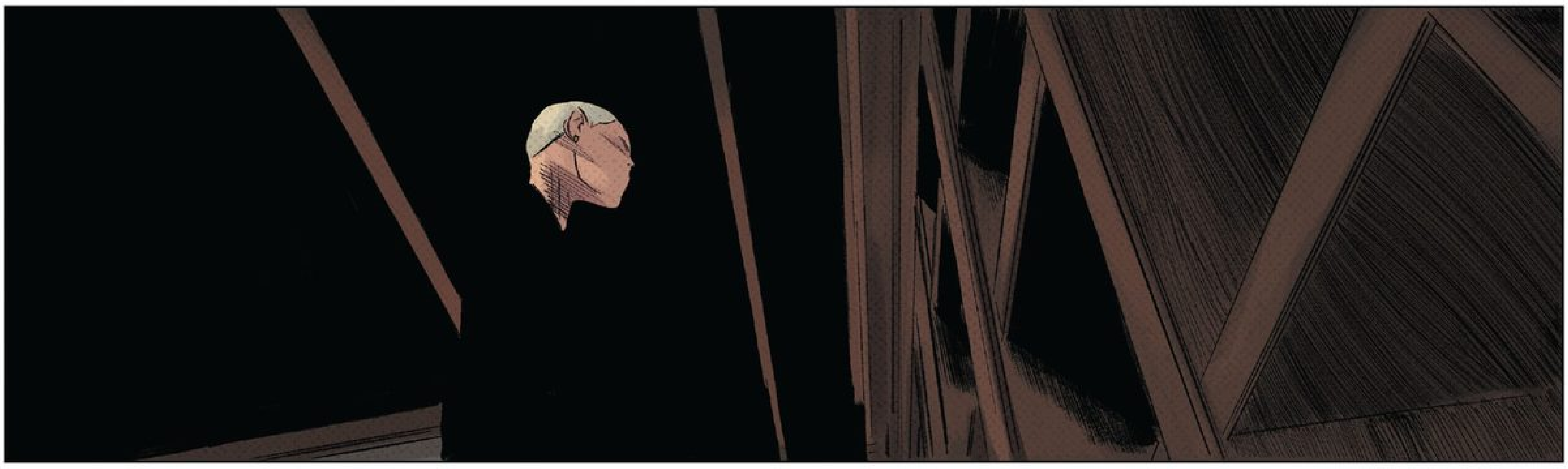

IF I DIE AND THE HOUSE IS TOO WEAK TO FULFILL ITS DUTIES, THEY WILL REVOKE THE CHARTER OF THE *HOUSE OF SLAUGHTER* AND CREATE A *NEW HOUSE* IN AMERICA TO TAKE OUR PLACE.
THEY'VE DONE IT BEFORE.
NEW YORK.
IT'S NOT GOOD THAT WE DIDN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE MESS WE HAD ON OUR HANDS.
A RETIRED MEMBER OF OUR RULING COUNCIL *AIDING* A RENEGADE MEMBER OF THE ORDER? IMAGINE HOW THAT LOOKS TO THE GREAT HOUSE.
YOU NEED TO START THINKING LIKE A *DRAGON,* IF YOU EVER HOPE TO TAKE MY PLACE.
GARY WAS A FINE MAN, BUT HE WAS SICK, AND WOULD HAVE DIED IN A FEW SHORT YEARS AT THE OUTSET.
NOW HIS DEATH SERVES OUR HOUSE. AND OUR SANCTION OF IT MAKES US LOOK STRONGER, NOT WEAKER. ERICA'S DEATH WILL MAKE US LOOK STRONGER STILL.
AND IF SHE *LIVES,* PERHAPS THAT SUITS US EVEN BETTER.

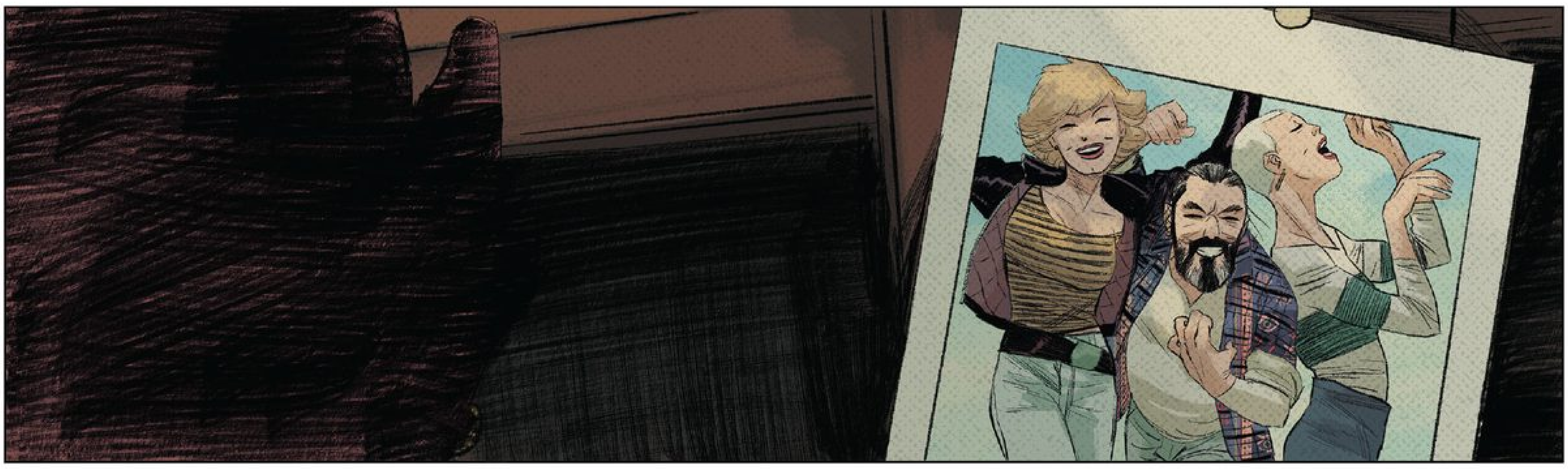

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THE GREAT HOUSE KNOWS THAT ERICA IS A VERY DANGEROUS PERSON TO PUT IN A CORNER.
IT ALSO KNOWS IT HAS A PROBLEM IN CUTTER. A PROBLEM THEY WILL NEED TO DEAL WITH SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.
THE ORDER DOESN'T CARE WHICH OF THEM SURVIVES.
THEY WOULD NEVER SAY AS MUCH.

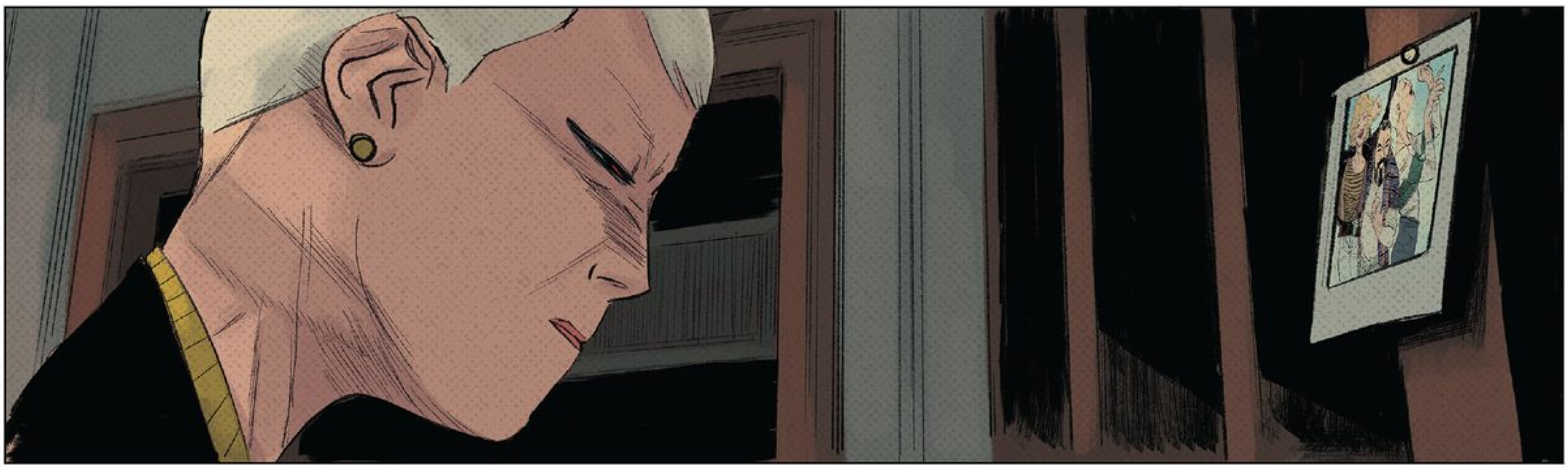

BUT YOU CAN IMAGINE A WORLD IN WHICH CUTTER CREATES A PROBLEM THAT WE CANNOT CONTAIN. A PROBLEM THAT RISKS THE **GREAT SECRET** OF THE ORDER.
IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME SHE'S CREATED A PROBLEM LIKE THIS.
AND IT'S ONE OUR HANDS WOULD BE CLEAN OF, BECAUSE WE DID NOT CHOOSE HER.
IF ERICA WERE TO ELIMINATE HER, PROTECT THE SECRET, RE-SWEAR HER ALLEGIANCE TO OUR HOUSE, AND TAKE HER SEAT ON OUR RULING COUNCIL...
WE'D LOOK LIKE A RATHER STRONG HOUSE THEN. DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU WOULD LET HER BACK INTO THE HOUSE? ***YOU WOULD ALLOW THAT?***
CAREFUL, CECILIA. MIND WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT SPEAKING FROM EMOTION.

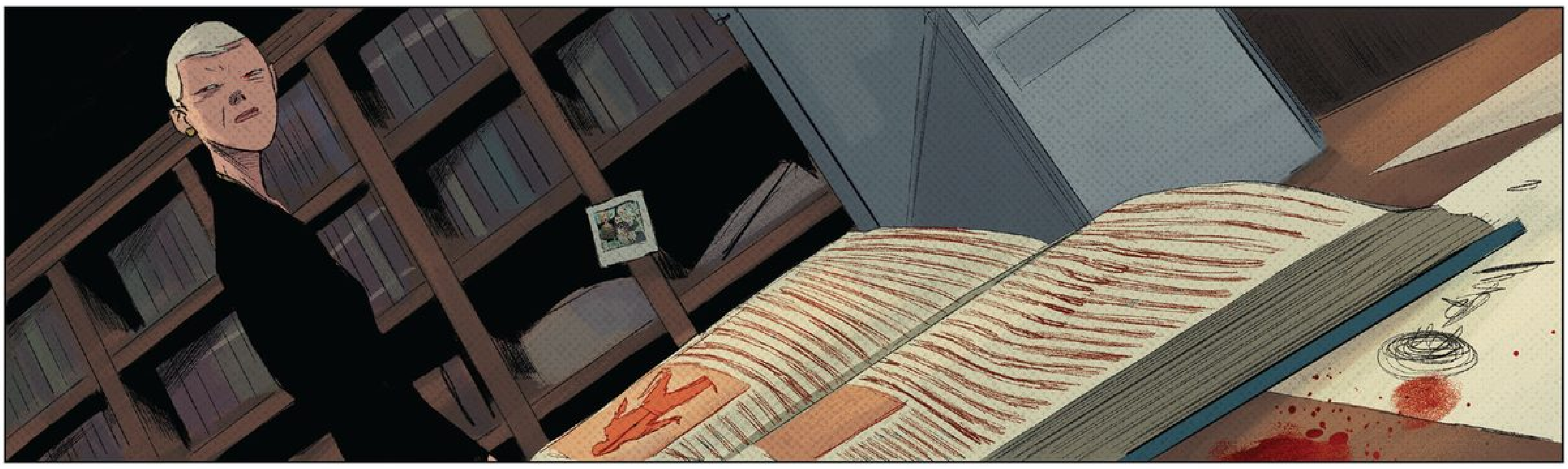

I WON'T SIT AT THE HEAD OF A RULING COUNCIL WITH HER ON IT.
NO. I WOULDN'T THINK SO. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT SHE WOULD EVER VOTE TO RAISE YOU TO THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE. ALL THAT BAD BLOOD.
AND IT NEEDS TO BE *UNANIMOUS,* AS YOU KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING, HERE?
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, CECILIA. I'M TRYING TO MAKE YOU THINK LIKE A DRAGON, AND NOT JUST SOME ***COMMON MONSTER.***
IF YOU PLAN ON MAKING A MOVE, MAKE IT QUICKLY AND DELIBERATELY. A DRAGON DOES NOT HESITATE.
A DRAGON *ACTS.*

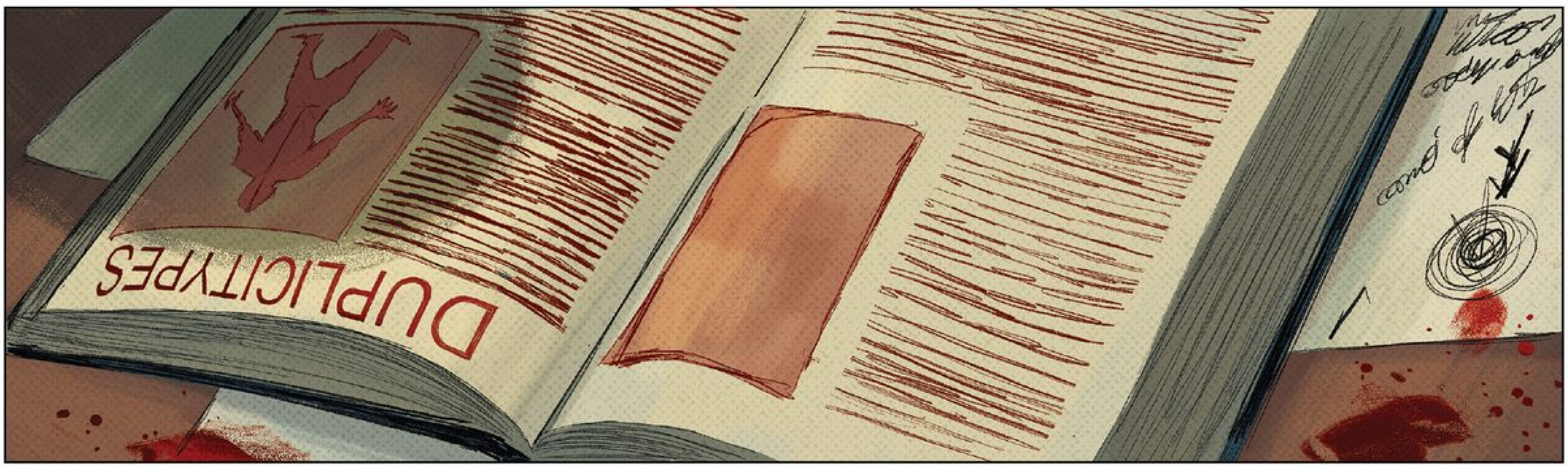


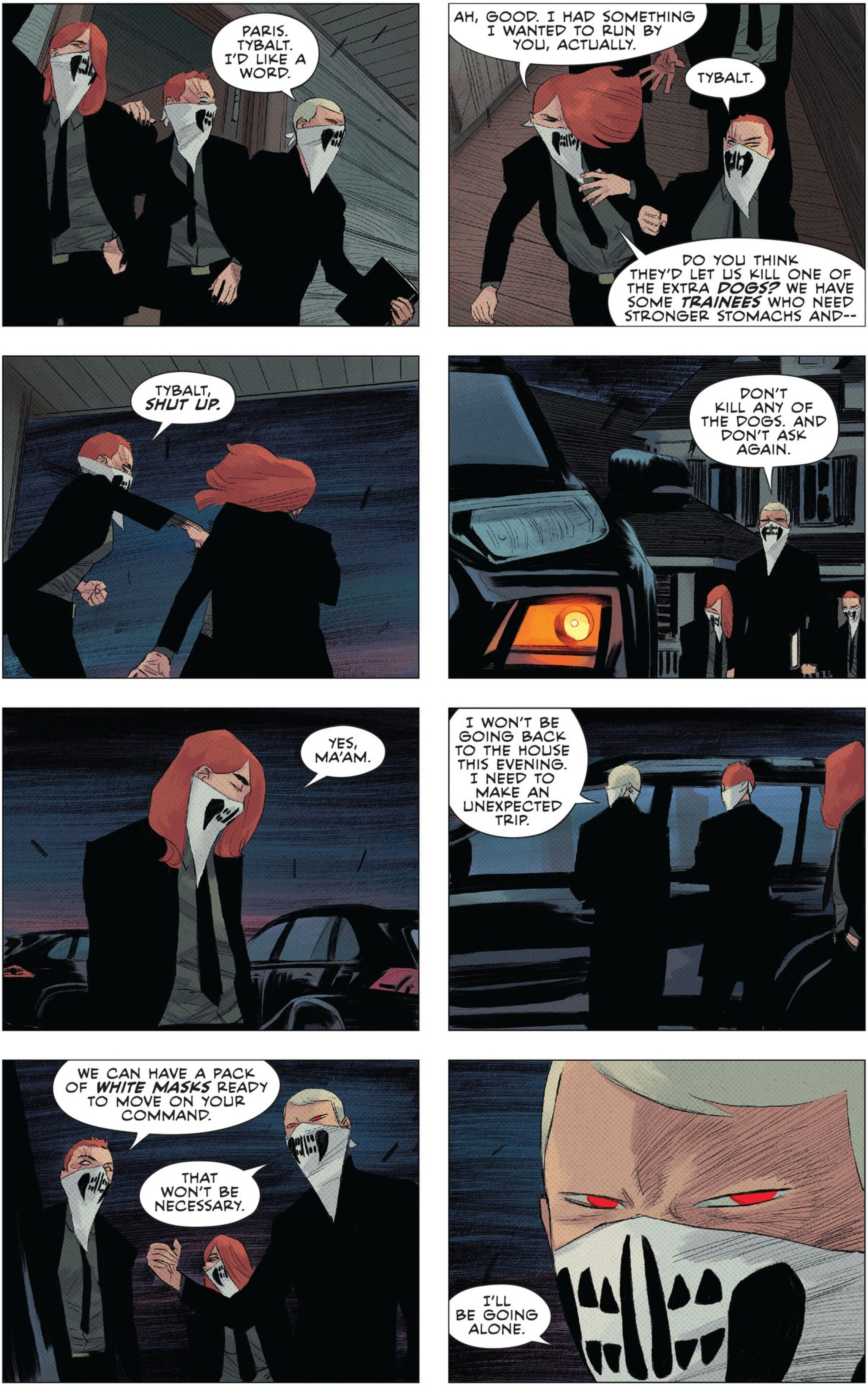


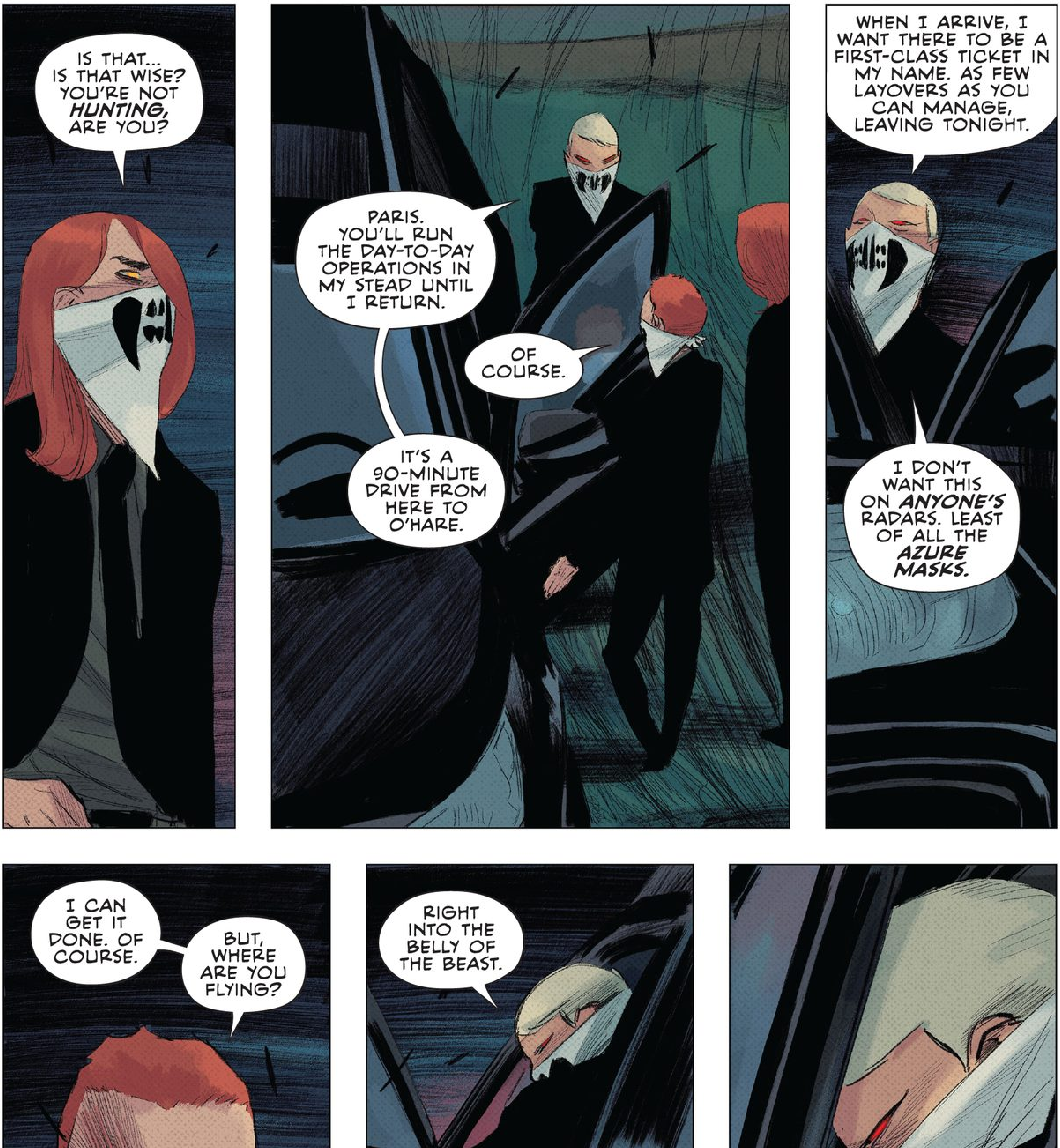







DUPLICITYPES


PARIS. TYBALT. I'D LIKE A WORD.
AH, GOOD. I HAD SOMETHING I WANTED TO RUN BY YOU, ACTUALLY.
TYBALT.
DO YOU THINK THEY'D LET US KILL ONE OF THE EXTRA *DOGS?* WE HAVE SOME *TRAINEES* WHO NEED STRONGER STOMACHS AND--
TYBALT, ***SHUT UP.***
DON'T KILL ANY OF THE DOGS. AND DON'T ASK AGAIN.
YES, MA'AM.
I WON'T BE GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE THIS EVENING. I NEED TO MAKE AN UNEXPECTED TRIP.
WE CAN HAVE A PACK OF ***WHITE MASKS*** READY TO MOVE ON YOUR COMMAND.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
I'LL BE GOING ALONE.


IS THAT... IS THAT WISE? YOU'RE NOT *HUNTING,* ARE YOU?
PARIS. YOU'LL RUN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS IN MY STEAD UNTIL I RETURN.
OF COURSE.
IT'S A 90-MINUTE DRIVE FROM HERE TO O'HARE.
WHEN I ARRIVE, I WANT THERE TO BE A FIRST-CLASS TICKET IN MY NAME. AS FEW LAYOVERS AS YOU CAN MANAGE, LEAVING TONIGHT.
I DON'T WANT THIS ON *ANYONE'S* RADARS. LEAST OF ALL THE *AZURE MASKS.*
I CAN GET IT DONE. OF COURSE.
BUT, WHERE ARE YOU FLYING?
RIGHT INTO THE BELLY OF THE BEAST.
NEW MEXICO.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"THE GIRL AND THE HURRICANE"
PART FOUR

WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV

ILLUSTRATED BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA

COLORED BY
MIQUEL MUERTO

LETTERED BY
ANDWORLD DESIGN

COVER BY
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WITH COLORS BY MIQUEL MUERTO

UNLOCKABLE VARIANT COVER BY
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BOOM! DIRECT

Winter **2023**

LETTERS FROM THE BOOM!PEN

Here we are at the beginning of a new year, and it's a particularly special one for me. 2023 marks 15 years since I joined this incredible company.

15 years since I was working on a wobbly card table, surrounded by walled towers of cardboard boxes (more privacy than a cubicle, as it happens). We didn't even have a coffee machine back then, but what we did have was a lot of belief, potential, and fire in the belly.

Since I joined the company back in 2008 I've had a front row seat for one of the great ascensions of a publisher in the modern age of comics. Our readership has continued to grow, the BOOM! community is stronger today than it's ever been, and our retail partners the globe over have had our back time and again.

So a thank you is in order, top of year, to all of you who champion our titles. All of you who ride with us and continue to celebrate phenomenal, groundbreaking work from the best creators in the business. And we're not slowing down. Even though this journey has been filled with some of the most remarkable moments of my career, these past few years in particular have been...well, something special.

In the last 24 months alone, we saw the premiere of our very first TV series (season one of R.L. Stine's ***Just Beyond*** is available now on **Disney+**!), an absolutely astounding reaction to our first expansion of the ***Something is Killing the Children*** universe with ***House of Slaughter***, and of course, our partnership with Keanu Reeves on ***BRZRKR***, culminating in a history-making **Hall H panel** at **San Diego Comic-Con** that I will never forget.

But while it's nice to reminisce about the past, what's really important is what's next. We've never been a team that's been satisfied with the status quo. Through everything the past few years have thrown at the comic book industry, you've believed in us, supported us, and that drives us more than ever in our pursuit to bring you, our readers, unforgettable stories and experiences. And I know I'm not exactly an unbiased opinion, but taking a peek at the 2023 slate, **I think this is going to be our biggest year yet.**

We have a host of new originals lined up, the final issue of ***BRZRKR*** on the way, more surprises coming in the ***SIKTC*** universe, a new ***Power Rangers*** title I'm very pumped about, and so much more. Expect announcements all year as we unveil our slate and more than a few surprises.

Keep an eye out on this page, as well. We'll be dropping exclusive news, giveaways, discounts, events, and much, much more… coming to you here first. Just one of the ways we'd like to continue to say thank you.

Here's to the next 15 years with the best community in comics!

With Gratitude,

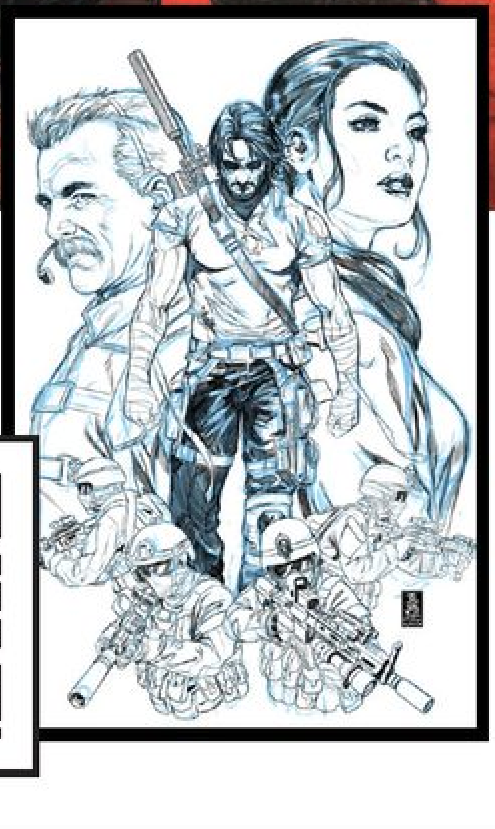
MATT GAGNON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BOOM! STUDIOS

NEW GIVEAWAY!

THE EPIC CONCLUSION TO THE IMMORTAL SAGA IS NEARLY HERE!

To celebrate the milestone **issue #12** of ***BRZRKR***, we're giving away **12 copies** of the **ultra-rare 1:500 variant** of the iconic **first issue!** Rules and restrictions apply.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!



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SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

WRITTEN BY
JAMES TYNION IV
(THE DEPARTMENT OF TRUTH, THE NICE HOUSE ON THE LAKE)

ILLUSTRATED BY
WERTHER DELL'EDERA
(RAZORBLADES)

WITH COLORIST
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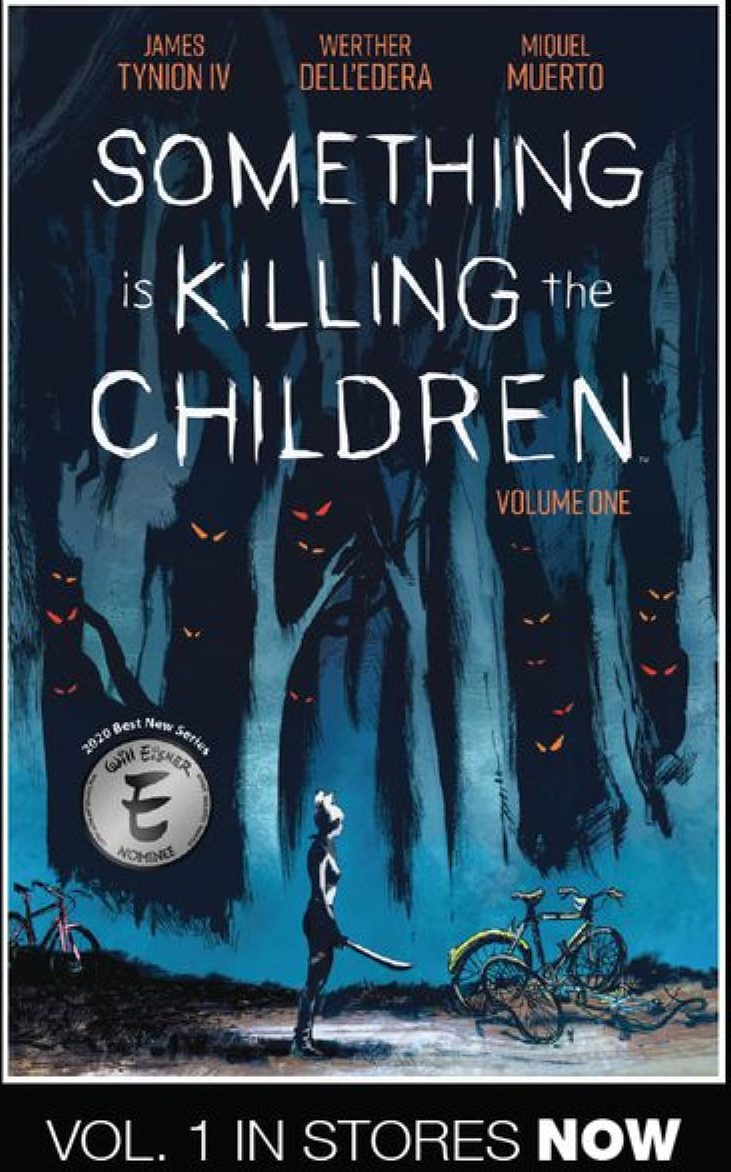
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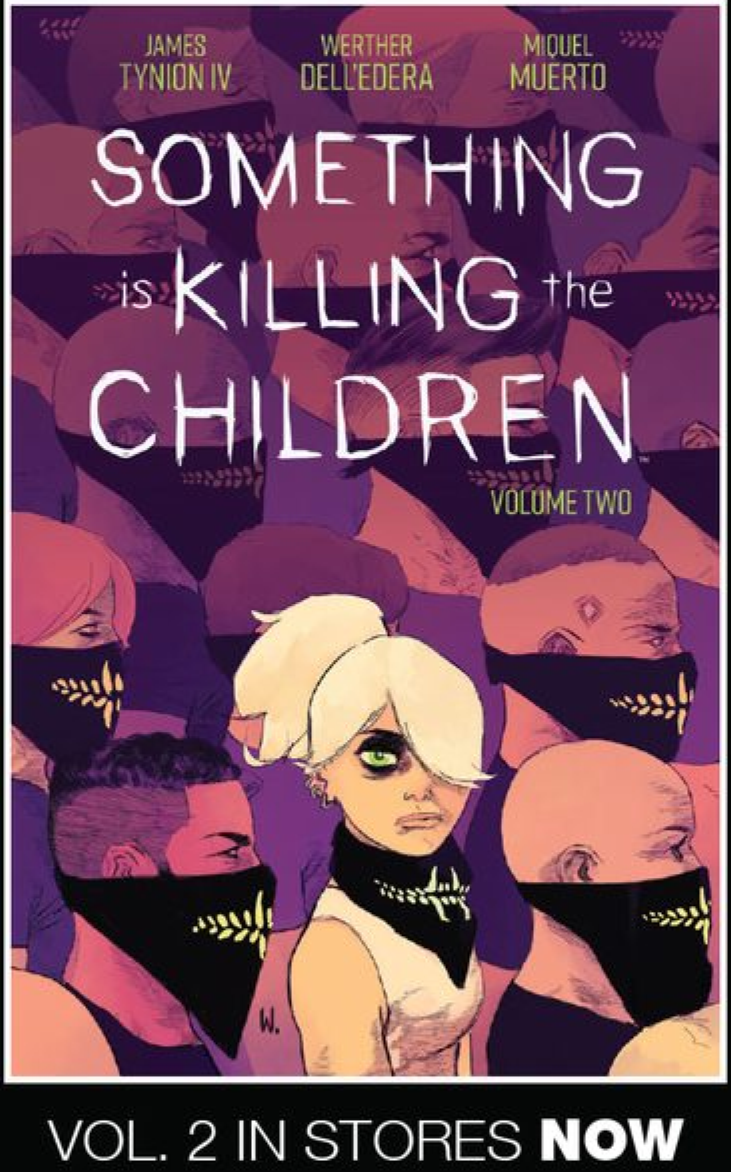
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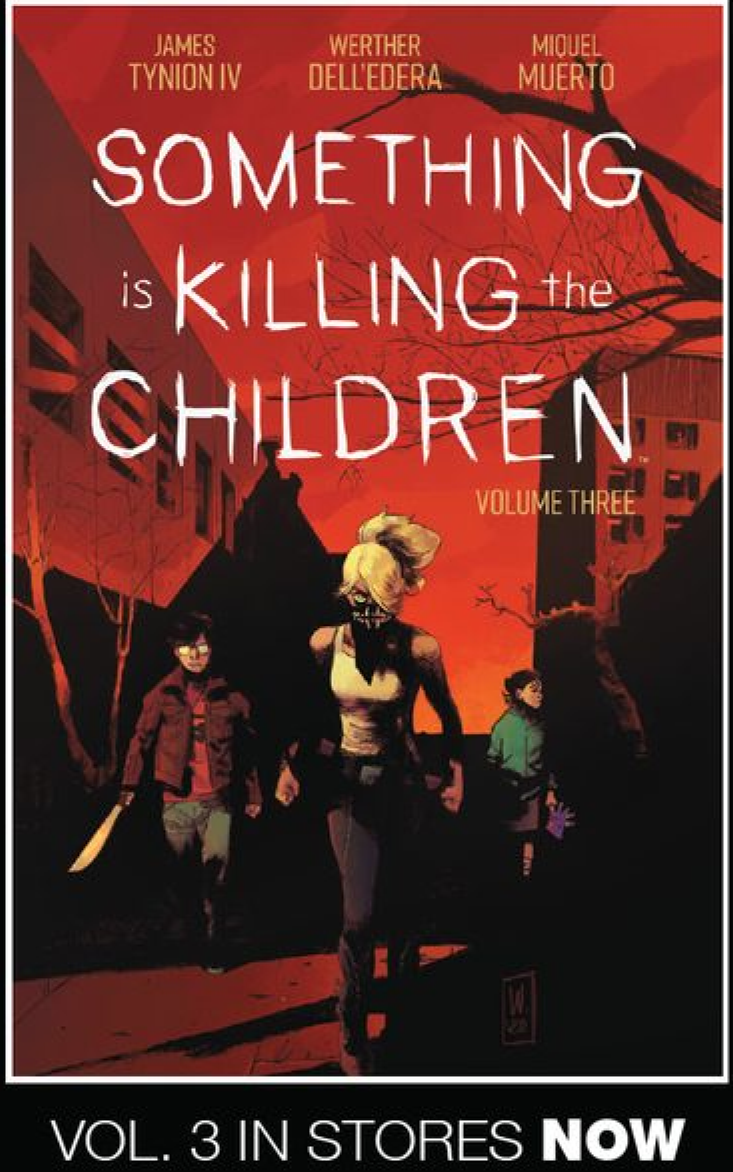
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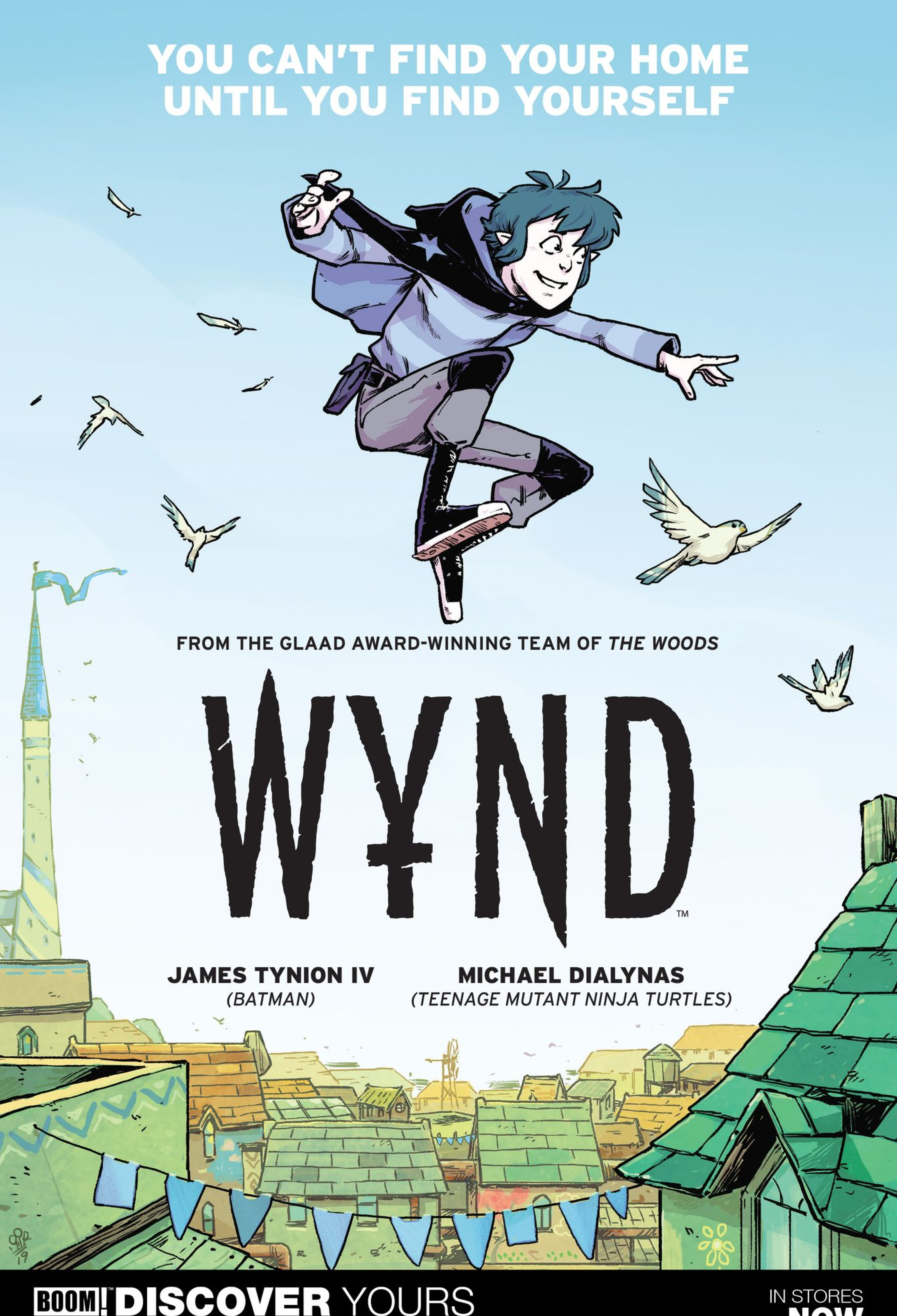
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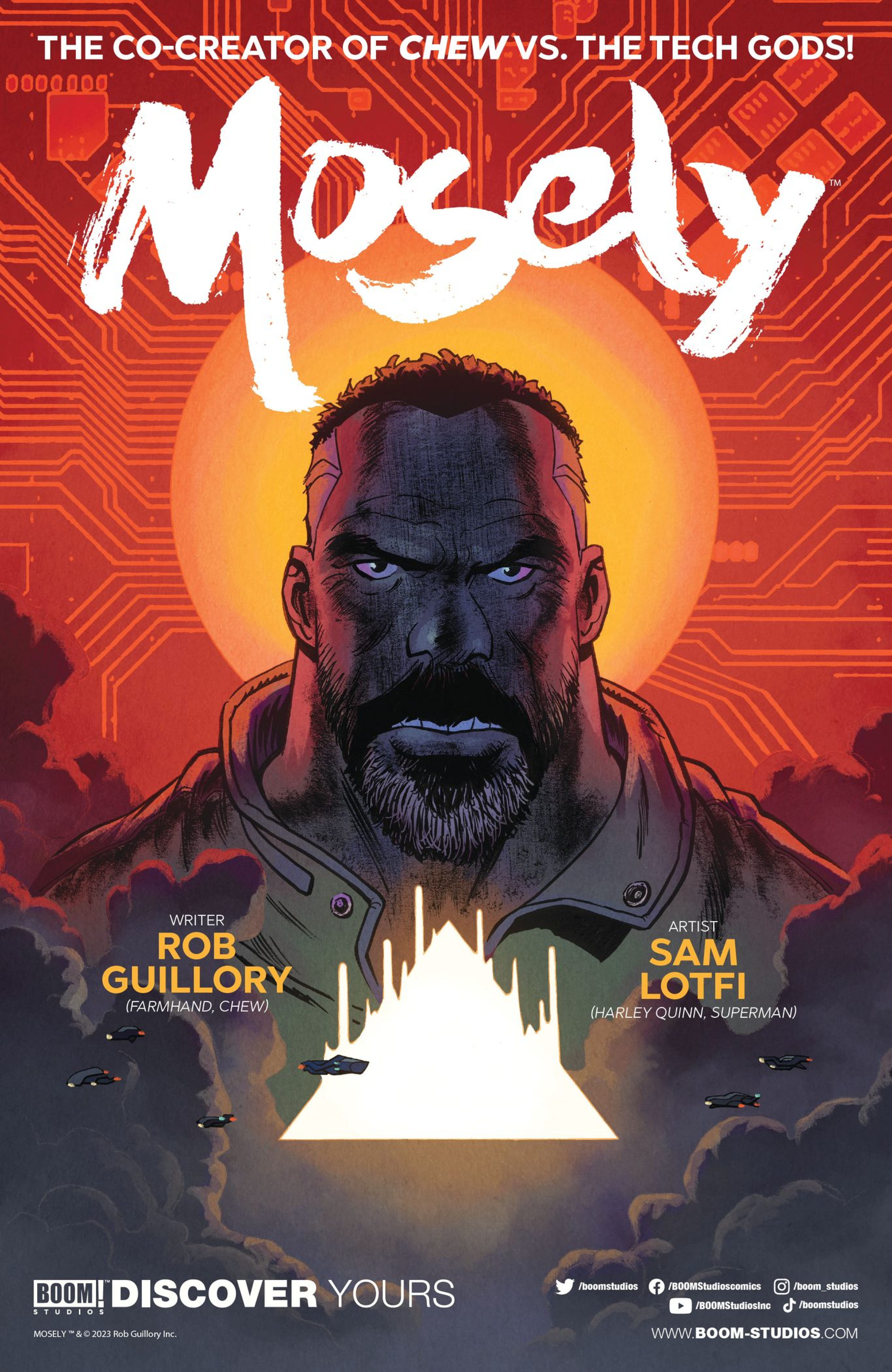

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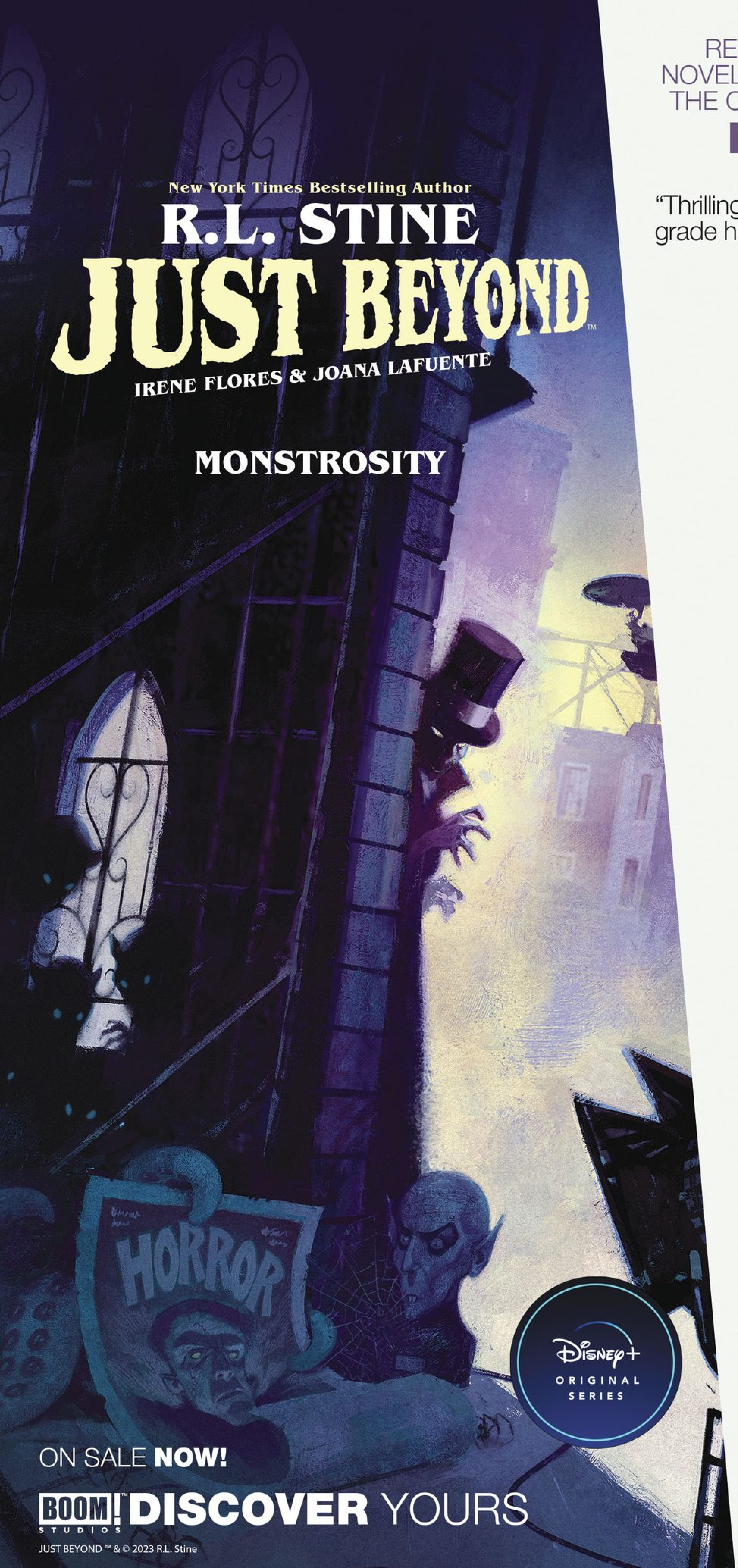
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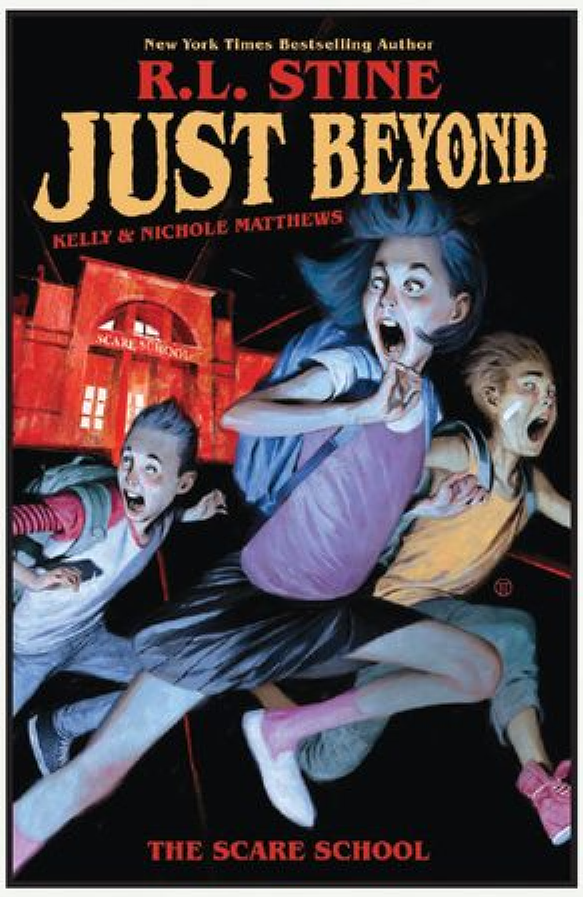
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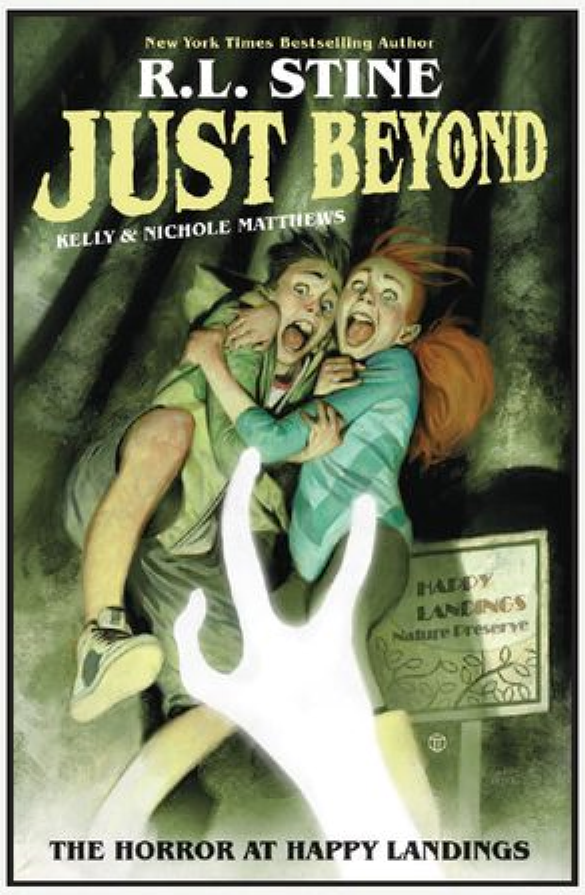
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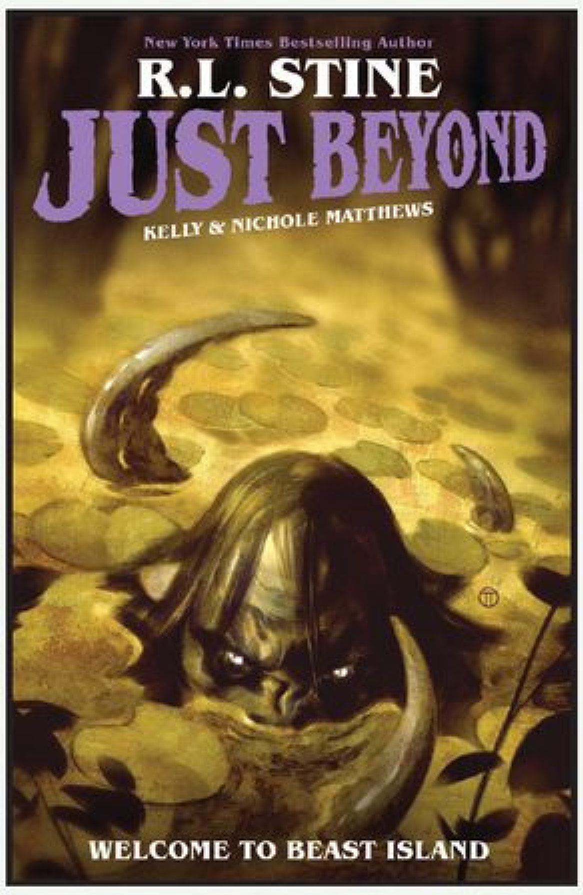
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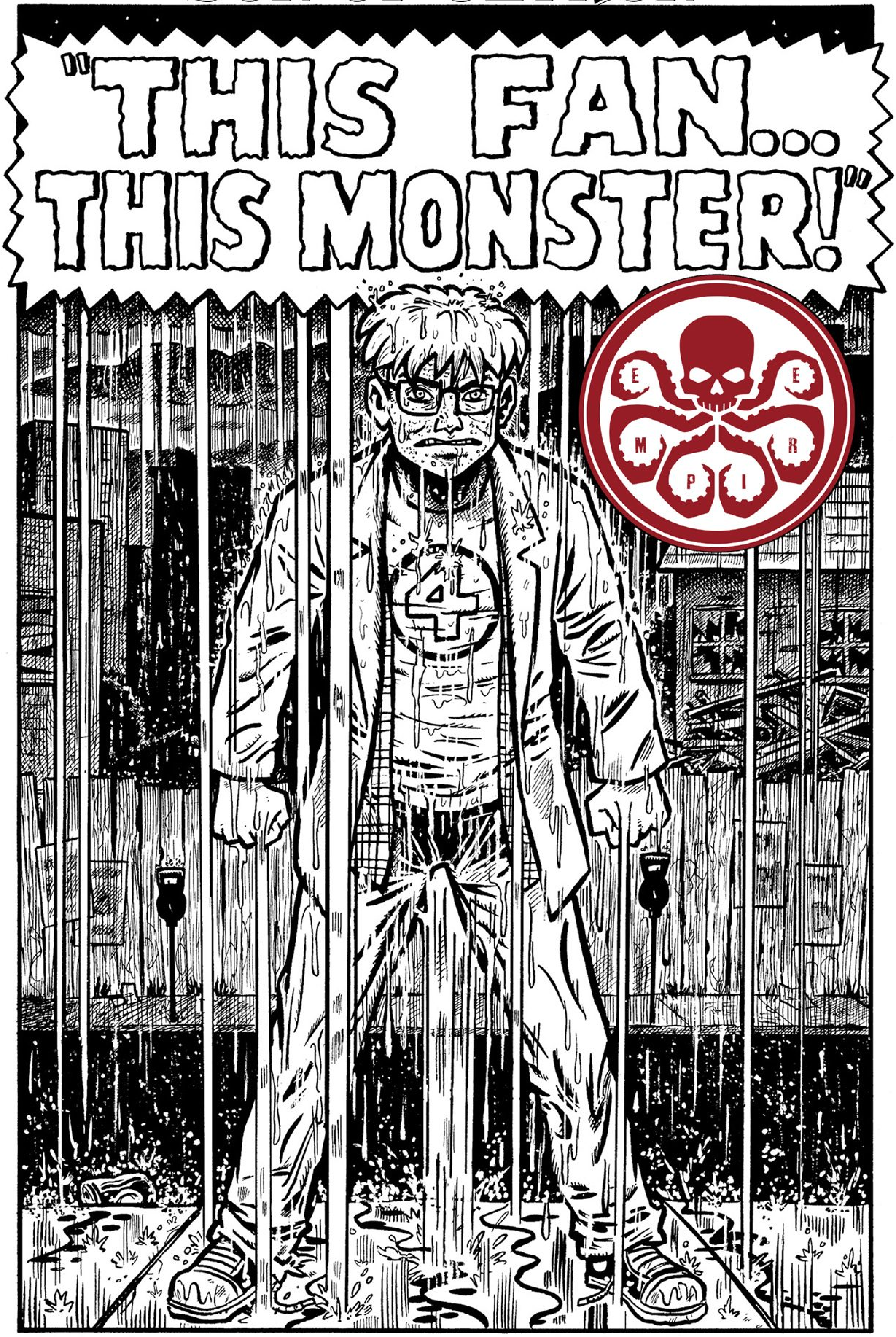
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